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HUSKERS

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Andy Janovich



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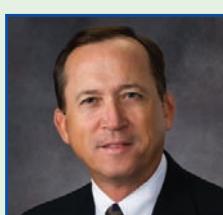
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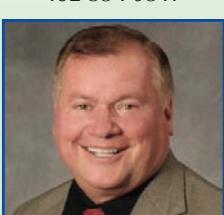
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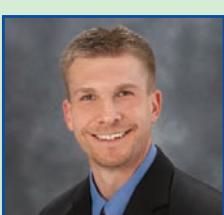
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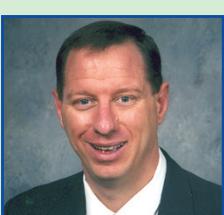
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| Sat, Sep 26 | Southern Miss | Memorial Stadium | - |
| Sat, Oct 03 | Illinois* | at Champaign, Ill. | - |
| Sat, Oct 10 | Wisconsin* | Memorial Stadium | - |
| Sat, Oct 17 | Minnesota* | at Minneapolis, Minn. | - |
| Sat, Oct 24 | Northwestern* | Memorial Stadium | - |
| Sat, Oct 31 | Purdue* | at West Lafayette, Ind. | - |
| Sat, Nov 07 | Michigan State* | Memorial Stadium | - |
| Sat, Nov 14 | Rutgers* | at Piscataway, N.J. | - |
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A CHIP OFF THE OLD FULLBACK BLOCK

Senior Andy Janovich gets first carries since 2012, ignites offense with big-play ability

BEING 22-POINT FAVORITES AGAINST SOUTHERN MISS, FEW THOUGHT SATURDAY'S GAME WOULD COME DOWN TO THE FINAL PLAY.

Yet again that was the case as the Golden Eagles mounted a furious late rally and Nebraska was not able to put this one away until Freedom Akinmouladin's sack as time expired.

Lost in this feeling of what exactly the Big Ten season will bring after the 2-2 start that saw three games go down to the final play was the emergence of senior fullback Andy Janovich, even if just for one game.

His first carry came in the first half - back when Nebraska was seemingly in control of this game - and it went for 25 yards. The normally quiet pressbox was abuzz and the section where many of the former Nebraska assistant coaches sit was full of chatter.

"Fullback trap," Milt Tenopir hollered.

Media members were also scrambling to figure out the last time Janovich had carried the ball.

I found that you have to go all the way back to Sept. 22, 2012 in the 73-7 victory against Idaho State when just about everybody including the student managers were getting a shot at toting the pigskin, to find Janovich's last and only carries as a Husker.

That day he rushed three times for six yards and made one catch. He also caught a pass against Ohio State later his freshman year. Janovich's only other offensive stat line prior to Saturday's performance was a 16-yard catch against Michigan State in 2014.

Janovich had come in with such high praise and promise out of Gretna back in 2012, but never had been really given the opportunity to showcase his combination of speed, power and agility from his 6-foot-1, 230-pound frame.



He had no carries in 2013 or 2014. He wasn't alone. No fullbacks got any carries during those seasons.

In that time, converted offensive lineman/defensive lineman Brodrick Nickens even had more carries - one - on an awful fake punt call in 2013.

In the first three Nebraska games this season, the Huskers also hadn't handed to a fullback.

"It's a dinosaur," offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said of the fullback position. "It's a dying breed. They're hard to find because no one uses them, even in high school. ... But we continue to look for them and we want to keep it alive in our system."

So Janovich, who isn't even one of the featured players in the 2015 Husker Yearbook despite being a senior, rose from near extinction on Saturday.

On six touches Saturday, he produced 121 yards, including the longest play (a 53-yard catch) by a NU fullback since Judd Davies' 57-yard run against Baylor in 2000.

At one point, Nebraska shifted Janovich into the tailback spot, behind Imani Cross.

"I heard the crowd freaking out," said backup fullback Harrison Jordan.

His runs included 25 and 28 yards and he also had his first touchdown called back due to a holding penalty that spoiled what could have even been a more perfect day.

It may just be one game against a defensive front that exposed itself to this type of play or he might be that secret weapon that the Husker offense has been seeking.

That will be up to head coach Mike Riley and Langsdorf to decide.

"I don't think we're gonna get into a bunch of triple-option plays, but using the fullback is something that we want to do," he said. "We have done it in our past. After Andy's run, now we have to do more of it."

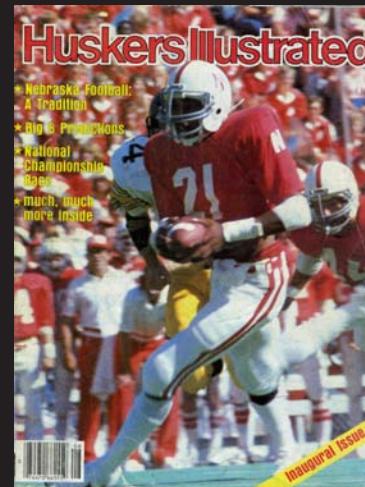
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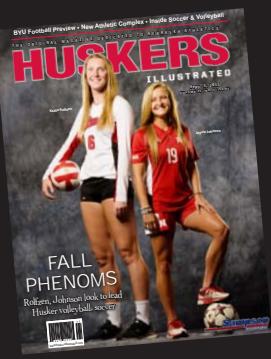
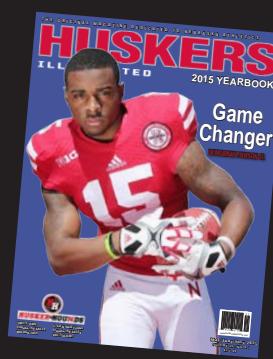
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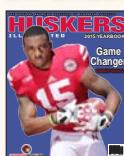
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Offensive lineman says the group has plenty of confidence that it can clean up penalties and open holes for backs during NU's Big Ten schedule.

| 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE | DATE | OPPONENT | SITE | TIME | TV/SCORE |
|------------------------|----------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | SEPT. 5 | BYU | MEMORIAL STADIUM | 2:30 P.M. | L, 33-28 |
| | SEPT. 12 | SOUTH ALABAMA | MEMORIAL STADIUM | 7 P.M. | W, 48-9 |
| | SEPT. 19 | @ MIAMI | MIAMI, FLORIDA | 2:30 P.M. | L, 36-33 OT |
| | SEPT. 26 | SOUTHERNMISS | MEMORIAL STADIUM | 11 A.M. | W, 36-28 |
| | OCT. 3 | @ ILLINOIS | CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS | 2:30 P.M. | BTN |
| | OCT. 10 | WISCONSIN | MEMORIAL STADIUM | TBA | TBA |
| | OCT. 17 | @ MINNESOTA | MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA | TBA | TBA |
| | OCT. 24 | NORTHWESTERN | MEMORIAL STADIUM | TBA | TBA |
| | OCT. 31 | @ PURDUE | WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA | TBA | TBA |
| | NOV. 7 | MICHIGAN STATE | MEMORIAL STADIUM | TBA | TBA |
| | NOV. 14 | @ RUTGERS | PISCATAWAY, N.J. | TBA | TBA |
| | NOV. 27 | IOWA | MEMORIAL STADIUM | TBA | TBA |

ALL GAMES ARE CST

ON THE COVER

Nebraska senior fullback Andy Janovich took Husker fans back to a begotten era when the fullback was an offensive weapon and large part of the Husker offense with his 121-yard effort against Southern Miss. He had runs of 25 and 28 yards and a catch for 53 yards. A touchdown run was negated by a holding penalty otherwise it would have been a perfect day.

PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER
RECRUITING EDITOR
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Lincoln High's Bailey draws attention



2017 Lincoln High defender Cordarrius Bailey visited for the South Alabama game.

There might be a new in-state name to know for Husker recruiting fans, as 2017 Lincoln High defender Cordarrius Bailey enjoyed his first visit to Nebraska for the South Alabama game.

Bailey, a 6-foot-4, 210-pound defensive lineman started hearing from the Huskers after his first game of the season and landed an invite to come see the school.

"It was great because when the coaches had reached out to me they really wanted me there," Bailey said. "Nebraska could really put a big impact on my education and they could also really help me get better on the football field."

"I'm really happy to have Nebraska reach out because I really like them. That was my first game. Their facilities are great. I talked with some of

the coaches and players too. They're great too."

Bailey is already hearing from Nebraska coach Mike Riley and defensive line coach Hank Hughes. The lineman said he's enjoyed his chats with the coaches and he's excited the Huskers look primed to make him an in-state target.

The first time Nebraska reached out Bailey said he was shocked. He hadn't heard from the Huskers previously and hadn't attended any of their camps.

"Everybody was surprised," he said. "It first started when I heard from Nebraska that coach Riley really wanted me to come to the game."

Prior to his freshman season at Lincoln High, Bailey lived in Mississippi where some of his family still lives including his step brother J.T.

Gray, a sophomore linebacker for Mississippi State.

During the offseason Bailey plans to lift with the rest of his Lincoln High teammates and then he'll participate in track during the spring. Bailey said he hopes to be at 220 pounds by the spring season.

This season Bailey has shown an ability to get after opposing quarterbacks and now that's bringing him a lot of attention. Against Lincoln Northeast, the defender recorded several sacks and brought considerable pressure on the Rockets' quarterback.

Teams have begun to adjust already. In the run game the opposition usually stays away from his side and while passing there's normally two and sometimes three players chipping away at the defensive end.

Bailey said he's fine facing as many people as teams are willing to commit to him if it helps a fellow Link lineman out.

"It's good though because when they double team and triple team me it means one of my teammates is going to be open to go make a play," he said.

Given his size and athleticism, Bailey could play on the offensive side of the ball, but the recruit said he really likes playing defense.

"I just like getting back there and making plays as a defensive lineman," Bailey said. "I'm really quick getting off the ball - when they blow the whistle then the ball moves I'm ready to go." **N**

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

STATE OF THE HUSKERS

Despite 2-2 start, there are reasons to be optimistic



Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com

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@michaelbruntz

WITH THE CALENDAR SET to flip to October and Nebraska preparing to turn its attention to the Big Ten Conference after a 2-2 start to the season, what does the rest of the year hold for the Huskers?

Who knows, but prepare yourself for a wild eight-game run through the Big Ten.

Coaching transitions, and especially the first season of a coach's tenure, can sometimes be inconsistent and confounding exercises in football. A new system and way of doing things that come with a new coaching staff sometimes leads to improved play, but also inconsistent play.

Based on how Nebraska has performed through the first four games of the season, Nebraska fans might want to prepare for an exciting and frustrating final eight games of the regular season.

On the offensive side of the ball, Nebraska put up 610 yards of total offense against Southern Miss, but had three drives stall in the red zone in the first half that resulted in field goals. Tommy Armstrong is completing 58 percent of his passes – up from a year ago – and taking good care of the ball.

A big question is whether the Huskers will be able to run the ball consistently in tight games. Nebraska struggled to run out the game against BYU, and had to abandon the run after falling behind early against Miami.

Of the teams Nebraska will see in the Big Ten West this season, the Huskers are unlikely to be out-gunned on the offensive side of the ball.

"We're ready," Armstrong said. "You've just got to stay healthy and make sure that we study film like any other week and just know that it's gonna be a tough road. We've got an away game as our first conference game going to Illinois. It's going to be tough. But you know they're doing great. We're doing great, and we've just got to make sure we out-physical them, make sure we know them better than they know themselves defensive-wise. We've just got to put points on the board. We can't go and settle for three points when

we're on the five or six-yard line, or maybe on the 10 or 15, or on third. We've just got to make sure that we settle for touchdowns, not field goals."

The defensive side of the ball will be challenged, particularly Nebraska's secondary, which enters Big Ten play among the worst in the country against the pass.

Nebraska gave up 447 yards passing to Southern Miss after shaking up its secondary following a career day by Miami's Brad Kaaya in the Huskers' loss to the Hurricanes. Nebraska's opponents are throwing for an average of 379 yards per game.

That group will need to get healthy, as well. The Husker linebacker corps has been bludgeoned by injuries, and Nebraska has also been without defensive end Jack Gang-

wish and defensive tackle Vincent Valentine for big stretches of the non-conference season. Defensive coordinator Mark Banker said his group needs to improve before starting Big Ten play at Illinois.

"We've got a long ways to go if we're going to compete in this conference and compete the way we want to. If we want to do that, then we've got to win more downs than the other team," Banker said. "We're not winning enough downs right now."

There are reasons for optimism.

Nebraska will get wide receiver De'Mornay Pierson-El back from injury for Big Ten play – a gamechanger for both the offense and the special teams units.

There is plenty to clean up, including penalties, but head coach Mike Riley said he is ready to see what the Big Ten has to offer.

"I am excited to get going with that," Riley said. "It feels like that time. I know our team will be excited about it. I hope that a few of our players that have been down get healthy before the week, so we can make a good plan with who is going to be able to play. I'm looking forward to it."

The first four games of the season weren't always pretty for the Huskers, but one thing is for certain: it won't be boring or predictable.



10 questions with Chongo Kondolo

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photos by Jimmy Rash

Q: How disappointing is the 2-2 start?

A: "It is, but there's still a chance to turn it around, and we realize that that time is going to wind down pretty soon, so we are working mainly on execution."

Q: How much belief do you have in Tommy Armstrong as your quarterback?

A: "We have a lot of belief in him, that's for sure. We don't doubt that he is going to come to play. He brings it every Saturday, and he is really competitive. He wants to win."

Q: Do you like having a quarterback like him that can avoid the rush and help you out?

A: "Yeah. It definitely helps. You can see it on film. Sometimes there is nothing, and he just made the play. A lot of quarterbacks would get sacked in those situations."

Q: What's your take on playing the same five offensive linemen the whole game?

A: "Coach has faith in us, and he wants us to lead the offense, so that's what he have to do. It helps us get used to playing with the guys next to us. You know, last year it was like that. Me, (Ryne) Reeves and Givens (Price) usually got in at the same time, and then this year all five of us are in at the same time, unless somebody gets hurt, but that hasn't happened yet."

Q: Are you guys more tired after a game without rotating?

A: "I don't think it really effects us. We still had energy (against Miami) in the fourth quarter, but obviously after the game you are still really tired. Being in shape is not a problem. We all have faith in our conditioning right now."

Q: Do you have confidence in the run game this season? It seems like there has been a lot of throwing?

A: "Oh, yeah. Definitely. That's one thing that we have confidence in. That's one thing a lot of us came here to



do, the belief in the run game. That's why we have so many good running backs."

Q: Did any of the offensive linemen talk with Alex Lewis after his social media post following the Miami game that got so much attention?

A: "I don't think anybody brought it up. He took it down, so he realized that it probably wasn't a good idea."

Q: How does coach Cavanaugh react to offensive line penalties?

A: "With every o-line coach, a false start is something that drives them crazy, but as far as hands to the face, you just have to keep working on your technique because if you have good technique, you won't put your hands in somebody's face. They will be on the pads. He coaches certain penalties, but others you know he will be pretty mad about."

Q: What's the cure to those penalties?

A: "Practice. Don't let certain things slide in practice. I'm pretty sure coaches will pretty glued into the huddle, so we don't have any 12-man penalties. That's also on us to make sure there are not more than 11 people in there."

Q: Is there a punishment system in place?

A: "We bear crawl on the o-line as far as, not from the game, but penalties in practice. I haven't really paid attention to the other groups. If it does happen it's usually after practice. We kind of all part ways after practice and do our own thing."



Freedom Akinmoladun sacks Southern Miss quarterback Nick Mullens as Kevin Maurice (55) also applies pressure at the end of Saturday's 36-28 victory.

Late sack preserves Nebraska's victory over Southern Miss

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photos by Jimmy Rash & Joe Mixan

The hip-hip-hooray chant echoed throughout the Nebraska locker room following its 36-28 win over Southern Miss Saturday, but the celebration doesn't look to spread much further than that.

The Huskers (2-2) let the Golden Eagles (2-2) hang around, failing to convert long drives into touchdowns and giving up large chunks defensively.

It nearly cost them as Southern Miss had the ball in Nebraska territory with a chance to tie the game in the final seconds.

Defensive end Freedom Akinmoladun put an end to the Golden Eagles' hopes with a swift move around the end, sacking quarterback Nick Mullens to run out the clock, but Nebraska coach Mike Riley realized how fortunate his team was to come away with the win.

"We played pretty well early but we didn't capitalize in the red zone with touchdowns," Riley said. "What might have been different point-wise even with scoring the number of times we did, the point differential wasn't very big and those things can't... It seems like those things are destined to come back and haunt you."

The Huskers escaped the ghosts this time, but the next time NU settles for seven field goals and commits 12 penalties in a game, it might not be so lucky. Afterwards, Riley said he and his staff will take a look at the film in an effort to clean up the sloppy mistakes.

Most of the damage Southern Miss did to Nebraska came in the passing game, and most of it came in the second half. After coming out of the gates running, the Golden Eagles abandoned that game plan almost entirely (11 total rushing yards). Instead they put the ball in Mullens' hands and let him sling it for 447 yards.

"They came up with a good plan versus what we were doing against them," Nebraska defensive coordinator Mark Banker said of how things changed in the second half. "We didn't feel like we had to make any adjustments against them. We felt good about what we were doing, but some things cropped up."

The Nebraska defense was without its most experienced linebackers, Michael Rose-Ivey and Josh Banderas (groin pulls), defensive tackle Vincent Valentine (ankle sprain) and defensive end Jack Gangwish (dislocated elbow) Saturday, but Banker didn't want that to be an excuse.

"Thank you for saying that, but you can never do that," he said. "It was a rough week of practice because of the continuity of what we are doing. You don't have Bando, you don't have Michael Rose, you don't have Valentine, both Nate Gerry and Aaron Williams were sick a few days this week, so we didn't have any continuity, but don't blame any of that on what transpired today because we played pretty good football in the first half, and it was pretty ugly in the second half."

As for the Big Ten slate, which cranks up Saturday with Illinois, Banker said it's important he find the right approach to those teams.

"We are not going to change the players, but we just have to come up with a better plan for them in how and what we do, help them from that aspect," he said. "There are some things technically in both the back end and the underneath coverage that we need to get better at."

Riley was optimistic after the win looking forward to conference play after making it out of the nonconference at 2-2.

"We've won a couple of games, and we have lost a couple of really close games," he said. "We've been through a lot of different situations, which I hope will be very good learning for us as you stack your experiences up and hopefully get better."



Fullback Andy Janovich provided a spark for the Nebraska offense with 68 rushing yards.



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Andy Janovich runs through Southern Miss defenders

Janovich reinvigorates NU's fullback role

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH

Aforgotten favorite emerged for Nebraska against Southern Miss as offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf reintroduced Cornhusker fans to an attack where the fullback is more than just a blocker.

Andy Janovich was the beneficiary of Nebraska going retro with its play-calling. The 6-foot-1, 230-pound senior from Gretna, who entered the game with career totals of 29 yards receiving and 6 yards rushing, carried five times for 68 yards and had a 53-yard reception as the Huskers held on to beat the Golden Eagles 36-28.

"I think he's great – I really like him," Langsdorf said of Janovich. "He's tough as nails, he's a great special teams player and he catches the ball out of the backfield, so

he gives you just what you want out of a fullback blocking. But I like how he runs, too."

Janovich didn't have a single rushing attempt this season prior to facing Southern Miss. However, Langsdorf said that was based more on the fact that Nebraska's first three opponents favored a 3-4 defensive alignment.

"The stuff that we're running with (Janovich) is built more for that 4-3 front," Langsdorf said. "We think he's a good player. We've liked what he's shown, but we're not going to run a play against a bad front that's not going to work."

Janovich had rushes of 28 and 25 yards against Southern Miss, marking the longest runs by a Nebraska fullback since Steve Kriewald broke a 48-yarder against Oklahoma in 2004. Janovich's 53-yard reception

was the longest by a Husker fullback since at least 1979.

"It was kind of exciting just because he's a physical guy," Nebraska quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. said. "You've got to show your fullbacks some love every once in a while."

Although Janovich didn't come to Nebraska's postgame press conference, plenty of his teammates and coaches were happy to talk about him.

"(Janovich) had one of the best special teams games I've seen just about ever (against Miami)," Nebraska head coach Mike Riley said. "He's just a good all-around player. ... He's obviously versatile."

"I don't know if every game, running-wise, will work out like that for our fullback, but it certainly was good today."



Ito Smith makes Husker safety Nate Gerry miss a tackle during Saturday's game in which the Eagles passed for 447 yards.

Southern Miss QB nearly breaks school record

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH

Defensive lapses continued to plague Nebraska during its 36-28 victory over Southern Miss.

After building a 22-0 halftime advantage, the Cornhuskers allowed 28 points in less than 28 1/2 minutes following the intermission to let the Golden Eagles back into the game. Southern Miss even had a chance to drive for the tying score, advancing to the Nebraska 40-yard line before quarterback Nick Mullens was sacked by defensive end Freedom Akinmoladun, allowing time to expire.

Mullens was 7-of-12 passing for 133 yards, including one 50-yard completion, and was sacked twice by Nebraska in the first half. However, the 6-foot-1, 196-pound junior threw for 314 second-half yards and finished 26-of-41 for 447

yards and two TDs. He wasn't sacked again until the final play of the game.

"As a defensive back unit, we weren't making plays," Nebraska safety Nate Gerry said. "Up front, we had a couple of missed assignments where the (linebackers) and the D-linemen weren't in their gaps.

"It was just a lot of sloppy football on our part."

Nebraska defensive coordinator Mark Banker said the Huskers struggled against "rub routes" and covering running backs releasing out of the backfield.

"We got beat over the top a few times," Banker said. "But some of it also was some of the things that they were doing with the backs, getting them out on wheel routes, out in the flat (and) angle routes back inside – things of that nature."

Sophomore linebacker Chris Weber led

Nebraska with 12 total tackles, including two for loss. Akinmoladun accounted for two of the Huskers' four sacks as they allowed just 11 net yards rushing.

Some defensive struggles probably could've been expected, considering the injuries and illness Nebraska dealt with in the week leading up to the Southern Miss game. Defensive tackle Vincent Valentine, defensive end Jack Gangwish and linebackers Josh Banderas and Michael Rose-Ivey were all sidelined by injuries, while Gerry and backup safety Aaron Williams missed the bulk of practices due to illness.

"It was a rough week of practice (for) the continuity of what you're doing," Banker said. "But don't blame any of that on what transpired today because we played pretty good football in the first half."

Husker Drive of the Game



Brandon Reilly was a key contributor on Nebraska's final drive of the game against Southern Miss.

Offense runs six minutes off fourth quarter clock

STORY BY SHANE G. GILSTER | PHOTO BY JOE MIXAN

Usually a "Drive of the Game" results in a touchdown. But in this case it did not. For Nebraska it was a very important one, because it was a drive that kept the ball away from the Southern Mississippi offense. Nebraska ate up all but 29 seconds in a time-consuming 10-play, 63 yard march that took up just over six minutes late in the fourth quarter.

A key play was a 41-yard completion to Brandon Reilly on third and 19.

"Honestly, it's kind of similar to last game," Tommy Armstrong Jr. said. "I just got flushed out a little bit, and I even told my guys, it's third-and-long, if we have to do a scramble drill, we have to do it. I kind of rolled out and I knew we had a post back

side, and we had an in from the right side, so I knew I wasn't going to have a lot of guys, but I was hoping Brandon could do the scramble drill like we were supposed to, and if I rolled out to run, he'd maybe cut back. And that's what he ended up doing, just cutting back and that safety, which came down on the end, ran and saw that, so I kind of tried to hurry and get the ball to him. And I got hit on the play, but you know I got the ball luckily to him."

It should be noted that the Huskers scored a touchdown on the drive but it was called back on a penalty. A later attempt at a chip shot 29-yard field was slightly blocked. But the NU offense did their job leaving little chance for the Golden Eagles to mount a drive from their own 20-yard line with almost no time left on the clock.

Breakdown – Play by Play

1-10 NEB 29: Tommy Armstrong Jr. rush over left end for 17 yards to the NEB 46, 1 down

1-10 NEB 46: Andy Janovich rush up the middle for 2 yards to the NEB 48

2-8 NEB 48: Tommy Armstrong Jr. pass complete to Cethan Carter for loss of 1 yard to the NEB 47

3-9 NEB 47: Tommy Armstrong Jr. pass complete to Jamal Turner for 20 yards to the USM 33 (10-yard penalty in NEB)

3-19 NEB 37: Tommy Armstrong Jr. pass complete to Brandon Reilly for 41 yards to the USM 22, 1 down

1-10 USM 22: Terrell Newby rush over right tackle for 4 yards to the USM 18

2-6 USM 18: Brandon Reilly rush over left end for 10 yards to the USM 8, 1 down

1-G USM 8: Tommy Armstrong Jr. pass complete to Jordan Westerkamp for 8 yards to the USM 0, touchdown (5-yard penalty on NEB)

1-G USM 13: Terrell Newby rush up the middle for 1 yard to the USM 12

2-G USM 12: Tommy Armstrong Jr. pass complete to Jordan Westerkamp for 4 yards to the USM 8.

3-G USM 8: Terrell Newby rush up the middle for no gain to the USM 8

4-G USM 8: Drew Brown field goal attempt from 29 blocked

Drive Stats

Drive started on the NU 29-yard line with 6:52 left in the 4th quarter

10 plays, 63 yards, 6:23 minutes

6 rushing plays, 3 passing plays, 1 field goal attempt

34 yards rushing, 44 yards passing, 3 first downs (15 yards of penalties)

Player of the Drive

Tommy Armstrong Jr. once again showed why he is becoming Nebraska's most valuable player. With NU holding a shaky 36-28 lead with 6:52 left in the fourth quarter, he knew he had to milk the clock by driving his team down the field and get some first downs. Southern Miss was moving up and down the field against the NU defense so to it was imperative to keep the ball away from the Golden Eagle offense.

Play of the Drive

Facing a third and 19 at the Nebraska 37-yard line, Tommy Armstrong Jr. hooked up with receiver Brandon Reilly for a 41-yard pass play to the Southern Miss 22. It was not only one of the longest offensive plays for Nebraska during the game, but it gave the Big Red a first down and continued the drive. If that play didn't happen, then NU would have had to punt the ball back to Southern Miss with only an eight point lead.

Nebraska 36, Southern Miss 28

Sept. 26, 2015 at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln

Attendance: 89,899

| Score by Quarters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Total |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|-----------|
| Southern Miss | 0 | 0 | 7 | 21 | 28 |
| Nebraska | 10 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 36 |

| Qtr | Time | Scoring Play | V-H |
|-----|-------|--|---------|
| 1st | 09:57 | NEB - Westerkamp, J. 6 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 8-71 3:35 | 0 - 7 |
| | 04:24 | NEB - Brown, Drew 29 yd field goal, 8-49 4:03 | 0 - 10 |
| 2nd | 10:49 | NEB - Brown, Drew 27 yd field goal, 11-70 5:02 | 0 - 13 |
| | 05:31 | NEB - Brown, Drew 40 yd field goal, 5-46 2:22 | 0 - 16 |
| | 01:34 | NEB - Brown, Drew 22 yd field goal, 5-43 1:57 | 0 - 19 |
| | 00:00 | NEB - Brown, Drew 50 yd field goal, 5-19 0:34 | 0 - 22 |
| 3rd | 13:19 | USM - SMITH, Ito 17 yd run (SHAUNFIELD, P. kick), 2-25 0:48 | 7 - 22 |
| | 00:27 | NEB - Allen, Taariq 10 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 11-93 4:04 | 7 - 29 |
| 4th | 13:34 | USM - MARTIN, Casey 21 yd pass from MULLENS, Nick (SHAUNFIELD, P. kick), 6-78 1:47 | 14 - 29 |
| | 12:26 | USM - MARTIN, Casey 19 yd pass from MULLENS, Nick (SHAUNFIELD, P. kick), 5-53 1:06 | 21 - 29 |
| | 09:30 | NEB - Armstrong Jr. 16 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 4-39 1:15 | 21 - 36 |
| | 06:55 | USM - RICHARD, Jalen 1 yd run (SHAUNFIELD, P. kick), 7-75 2:35 | 28 - 36 |



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Nebraska wide receiver Taariq Allen diving into the endzone for a 10-yard touchdown catch in the third quarter.



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Marcus Newby and Maliek Collins tackle Southern Miss quarterback Nick Mullens.



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Alex Lewis blocks Southern Miss linebacker Darian Yancey.



MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Nebraska wide receiver Brandon Reilly gets horse collar tackled.

Team Statistics

| | USM | NEB |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| FIRST DOWNS | 19 | 25 |
| Rushing | 1 | 10 |
| Passing | 15 | 14 |
| Penalty | 3 | 1 |
| NET YARDS RUSHING | 11 | 242 |
| Rushing Attempts | 23 | 39 |
| Average Per Rush | 0.5 | 6.2 |
| Rushing Touchdowns | 2 | 1 |
| Yards Gained Rushing | 53 | 259 |
| Yards Lost Rushing | 42 | 17 |
| NET YARDS PASSING | 447 | 368 |
| Completions-Attempts-Int | 26-42-0 | 23-35-1 |
| Average Per Attempt | 10.6 | 10.5 |
| Average Per Completion | 17.2 | 16.0 |
| Passing Touchdowns | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS | 458 | 610 |
| Total offense plays | 65 | 74 |
| Average Gain Per Play | 7.0 | 8.2 |
| Fumbles: Number-Lost | 2-1 | 2-1 |
| Penalties: Number-Yards | 9-80 | 12-98 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 4-162 | 1-44 |
| Average Yards Per Punt | 40.5 | 44.0 |
| Net Yards Per Punt | 36.2 | 44.0 |
| Inside 20 | 0 | 0 |
| 50+ Yards | 0 | 0 |
| Touchbacks | 0 | 0 |
| Fair catch | 0 | 1 |
| KICKOFFS-YARDS | 4-219 | 8-483 |
| Average Yards Per Kickoff | 54.8 | 60.4 |
| Net Yards Per Kickoff | 40.8 | 37.8 |
| Touchbacks | 1 | 4 |
| Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD | 0-0-0 | 1-17-0 |
| Average Per Return | 0.0 | 17.0 |
| Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD | 4-81-0 | 3-31-0 |
| Average Per Return | 20.2 | 10.3 |
| Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD | 1-30-0 | 0-0-0 |
| Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD | 0-0-0 | 1-1-0 |
| Miscellaneous Yards | 0 | 0 |
| Possession Time | 25:59 | 34:01 |
| 1st Quarter | 6.31 | 8:29 |
| 2nd Quarter | 5:56 | 9:04 |
| 3rd Quarter | 7:15 | 7:45 |
| 4th Quarter | 6:17 | 8:43 |
| Third-Down Conversions | 4 of 14 | 4 of 13 |
| Fourth-Down Conversions | 1 of 3 | 1 of 1 |
| Red-Zone Scores-Chances | 4-7 | 7-8 |
| Touchdowns | 4-7 | 3-8 |
| Field goals | 0-7 | 4-8 |
| Sacks By: Number-Yards | 1-12 | 4-30 |
| PAT Kicks | 4-4 | 3-3 |
| Field Goals | 0-2 | 5-7 |
| Points off turnovers | 7 | 3 |



ANDREW BARRY/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Southern Miss

| Rushing | No. | Gain | Loss | Net | TD | Lg | Avg |
|----------------|-----|------|------|-----|----|----|--------|
| SMITH, Ito | 7 | 29 | 0 | 29 | 1 | 17 | 4.1 |
| RICHARD, Jalen | 11 | 24 | 2 | 22 | 1 | 9 | 2.0 |
| MARTIN, Casey | 1 | 0 | 5 | -5 | 0 | 0 | -5.0 |
| TEAM | 1 | 0 | 10 | -10 | 0 | 0 | 0-10.0 |
| MULLENS, Nick | 3 | 0 | 25 | -25 | 0 | 0 | -8.3 |
| Totals | 23 | 53 | 42 | 11 | 2 | 17 | 0.5 |

| Passing | C-A-I | Yds | TD | Long | Sack |
|-----------------|---------|-----|----|------|------|
| MULLENS, Nick | 26-41-0 | 447 | 2 | 53 | 3 |
| SARRAZIN, Tyler | 0-1-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MARTIN, Casey | 0-0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals | 26-42-0 | 447 | 2 | 53 | 4 |

| Receiving | No. | Yards | TD | Long |
|-----------------|-----|-------|----|------|
| MARTIN, Casey | 8 | 102 | 2 | 21 |
| THOMAS, Michael | 5 | 121 | 0 | 53 |
| SMITH, Ito | 5 | 72 | 0 | 39 |
| RICHARD, Jalen | 4 | 60 | 0 | 25 |
| THOMPSON, D.J. | 2 | 78 | 0 | 50 |
| DAVIS, Daythan | 2 | 14 | 0 | 8 |
| Totals | 26 | 447 | 2 | 53 |

| Punting | No. | Yds | Avg | Long | In20 | TB |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|----|
| SARRAZIN, Tyler | 4 | 162 | 40.5 | 46 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 4 | 162 | 40.5 | 46 | 0 | 0 |

| Returns | Punt | | | Kickoff | | | Intercept | | |
|-------------|------|-----|----|---------|-----|----|-----------|-----|----|
| | No | Yds | Lg | No | Yds | Lg | No | Yds | Lg |
| SMITH, Ito | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 81 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ANTOINE, D. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 30 | 30 |
| Totals | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 81 | 28 | 1 | 30 | 30 |

| Field goals | Qtr | Time | Dist | Result |
|----------------|-----|-------|----------|--------|
| SHAUNFIELD, P. | 1st | 00:51 | 33 yards | Missed |
| SHAUNFIELD, P. | 3rd | 06:46 | 44 yards | Missed |

| Kickoffs | No. | Yards | Avg | TB | OB |
|--------------|-----|-------|------|----|----|
| BRAUCHLE, S. | 4 | 219 | 54.8 | 1 | 0 |

| All-purpose | Run | Rcv | KR | PR | IR | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| SMITH, Ito | 29 | 72 | 81 | 0 | 0 | 182 |
| THOMAS, Michael | 0 | 121 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 121 |
| MARTIN, Casey | -5 | 102 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 97 |
| RICHARD, Jalen | 22 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 |



ANDREW BARRY/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Individual Statistics

Nebraska

| Rushing | No. | Gain | Loss | Net | TD | Lg | Avg |
|-----------------|-----|------|------|-----|----|----|------|
| Newby, Terrell | 18 | 79 | 3 | 76 | 0 | 17 | 4.2 |
| Janovich, Andy | 5 | 68 | 0 | 68 | 0 | 28 | 13.6 |
| Armstrong Jr. | 7 | 75 | 12 | 63 | 1 | 28 | 9.0 |
| Reilly, Brandon | 2 | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 10 | 6.0 |
| Cross, Imani | 4 | 11 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 2.2 |
| Moore, Alonzo | 1 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 9.0 |
| Turner, Jamal | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3.0 |
| Ozigbo, Devine | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2.0 |
| Totals | 39 | 259 | 17 | 242 | 1 | 28 | 6.2 |

| Passing | C-A-I | Yds | TD | Long | Sack |
|---------------|---------|-----|----|------|------|
| Armstrong Jr. | 23-35-1 | 368 | 2 | 53 | 1 |
| Totals | 23-35-1 | 368 | 2 | 53 | 1 |

| Receiving | No. | Yards | TD | Long |
|-----------------|-----|-------|----|------|
| Westerkamp, J. | 11 | 118 | 1 | 27 |
| Reilly, Brandon | 3 | 112 | 0 | 49 |
| Morgan Jr., S. | 2 | 32 | 0 | 26 |
| Moore, Alonzo | 2 | 27 | 0 | 20 |
| Janovich, Andy | 1 | 53 | 0 | 53 |
| Cotton, Sam | 1 | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| Allen, Taariq | 1 | 10 | 1 | 10 |
| Newby, Terrell | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Carter, Cethan | 1 | -1 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 23 | 368 | 2 | 53 |

| Punting | No. | Yds | Avg | Long | In20 | TB |
|------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|----|
| Foltz, Sam | 1 | 44 | 44.0 | 44 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 1 | 44 | 44.0 | 44 | 0 | 0 |

| Returns | Punt | | | Kickoff | | | Intercept | | |
|----------------|------|-----|----|---------|-----|----|-----------|-----|----|
| | No | Yds | Lg | No | Yds | Lg | No | Yds | Lg |
| Westerkamp, J. | 1 | 17 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newby, Terrell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 31 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 1 | 17 | 17 | 3 | 31 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Field goals | Qtr | Time | Dist | Result |
|-------------|-----|-------|----------|---------|
| Brown, Drew | 1st | 04:24 | 29 yards | Good |
| Brown, Drew | 2nd | 10:49 | 27 yards | Good |
| Brown, Drew | 2nd | 05:31 | 40 yards | Good |
| Brown, Drew | 2nd | 01:34 | 22 yards | Good |
| Brown, Drew | 2nd | 00:00 | 50 yards | Good |
| Brown, Drew | 3rd | 10:39 | 51 yards | Missed |
| Brown, Drew | 4th | 00:29 | 29 yards | Blocked |

| Kickoffs | No. | Yards | Avg | TB | OB |
|-------------|-----|-------|------|----|----|
| Brown, Drew | 8 | 483 | 60.4 | 4 | 0 |

| All-purpose | Run | Rcv | KR | PR | IR | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| Westerkamp, J. | 0 | 118 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 135 |
| Reilly, Brandon | 12 | 112 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 124 |
| Janovich, Andy | 68 | 53 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 121 |
| Newby, Terrell | 76 | 4 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 111 |



Jordan Westerkamp had a career-high 11 receptions for 118 yards and a touchdown against Southern Miss.



Defensive Statistics

| # | Southern Miss | Solo | Ast | Total | Sacks-Yds | TFL-Yds | FF | FR-Yds | Int-Yds | BrUp | Blks | QBH |
|--------|-----------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|---------|----|--------|---------|------|------|-----|
| 2B | ANTOINE, D. | 3 | 5 | 8 | - | 1-1 | 1 | 1-0 | 1-30 | - | - | - |
| 11 | REED, Kalan | 6 | 1 | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 13 | NELSON, Jr., P. | 5 | 2 | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16 | PARKER, Elijah | 5 | 1 | 6 | - | 1-1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 3 | ARMSTRONG, C. | 4 | 1 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 18 | ANDERSON, Brian | 3 | 2 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 22 | YANCEY, Darian | 1 | 3 | 4 | - | 1-2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 32 | THIGPEN, Xavier | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1.0-12 | 1-12 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 94 | BRADLEY, Dylan | 2 | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 95 | BOLTON, Andrew | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 | COLLINS, Trae | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 14 | WRIGHT, Terrick | 0 | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 90 | CRAYTON, Rod | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 91 | SMITH, Michael | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 92 | MUSTAFAA, N. | 0 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 17 | BERTUCCI, David | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 98 | RILEY, Draper | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 19 | MIKELL, Curtis | 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | | 38 | 28 | 66 | 1.0-12 | 4-16 | 2 | 1-0 | 1-30 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

| # | Nebraska | Solo | Ast | Total | Sacks-Yds | TFL-Yds | FF | FR-Yds | Int-Yds | BrUp | Blks | QBH |
|--------|-----------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|---------|----|--------|---------|------|------|-----|
| 49 | Weber, Chris | 5 | 7 | 12 | - | 2-2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| 28 | Cockrell, B. | 4 | 3 | 7 | - | 1-0 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1B | Kalu, Joshua | 5 | 0 | 5 | 1.0-8 | 1-8 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 14 | Rose, Jonathan | 3 | 1 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 91 | Akinmoladun, F. | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2.0-17 | 2-17 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 90 | McMullen, Greg | 2 | 2 | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 3 | Newby, Marcus | 2 | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 8A | Jones, Chris | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1.0-5 | 1-5 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 | Gerry, Nate | 2 | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | Young, Dedrick | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 88 | Dzuris, Ross | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 1-0 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 29 | Nabity, Graham | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2B | Taylor, Adam | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 56 | Simpson, Brad | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4 | Armstrong Jr. | 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 87 | Reilly, Brandon | 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 | Maurice, Kevin | 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 92 | Williams, Kevin | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1-1 | - | - | - | - |
| 7 | Collins, Maliek | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Totals | | 33 | 24 | 57 | 4.0-30 | 8-32 | 1 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 2 | 0 | 6 |

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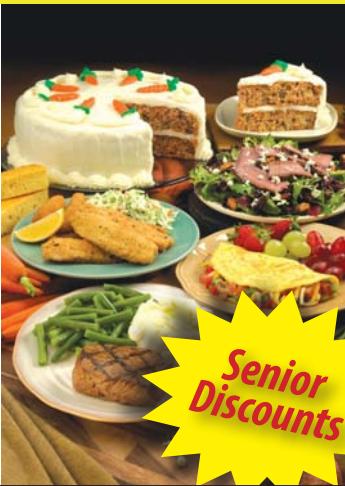
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RUSHING OFFENSE: Nebraska ran the ball for 242 yards on Saturday - one of the higher totals of the season - and one of the reasons for success might've been getting the fullback and quarterback more involved in the run game. Both Tommy Armstrong and fullback Andy Janovich had strong days on the ground, perhaps catching Southern Miss off-guard. Armstrong has always been a threat to run, but he made Southern Miss pay with a few designed runs to get him around the corner and then caught the Eagles with a nice draw for Nebraska's last touchdown. Meanwhile, Janovich had his first five career carries and finished with 68 yards. The Huskers also got 76 yards out of running back Terrell Newby in the win. The primary reason this grade is not higher is the Huskers still struggled to run consistently with the backs and Imani Cross coughed up the ball in the third quarter. - *Michael Schaefer*

B+

PASSING OFFENSE: Armstrong also had a great day through the air as he was able to hit on 65 percent of his passes. The quarterback spread the ball around some, but was finding primary targets Brandon Reilly and Jordan Westerkamp a lot. The duo combined for 130 yards on 14 receptions and a touchdown. Armstrong's second touchdown went to senior Taariq Allen on a wide receiver screen. Nine different Huskers caught passes on the day and the lone blemish came in the third quarter when Armstrong's pass was tipped and intercepted by Southern Miss. - *Michael Schaefer*

A

RUSHING DEFENSE: Nebraska kept Southern Miss bottled up on the ground for most of the game, as the Golden Eagles had 11 net yards rushing. Even with sack yardage not factored in, the Huskers held Southern Miss to 53 yards rushing on 23 carries for an average of .5 yards per carry. Maliek Collins did a nice job of keeping the middle of the line gummed up, and Nebraska's linebackers swarmed to the ball. - *Michael Bruntz*

A

PASSING DEFENSE: At halftime, things were looking good - or at least better - for Nebraska's pass defense. Then the teams came out for the second half and Southern Miss got into a rhythm. Quarterback Nick Mullens finished 26-for-41 for 447 yards and two touchdowns - both in the second half - as Southern Miss climbed back into the game. The pass rush was better at times for the Huskers, and Freedom Akinmoladun's second sack of the game couldn't have come at a much better time. Teams now have the blueprint for putting pressure on the Huskers' defense and Nebraska still hasn't shown that it can ground opponents' air attacks. - *Michael Bruntz*

F

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: This grade would look much different if it were given at halftime. Drew Brown looked great, booting five field goals after Nebraska drives stalled. More importantly, punter Sam Foltz was on the sidelines as the Huskers moved the ball up and down the field. In the second half, however, the Huskers struggled. Brown missed two field goals, including a 24-yarder that would have put the game out of reach late in the fourth quarter. Southern Miss recovered an onside kick as well, though Nebraska defended a fake punt in the fourth quarter to stop some of the bleeding. - *Michael Bruntz*

B

Quoting NU coach Mike Riley on Nebraska's 12 penalties for 98 yards:



“Of course we want to clean everyone of them up. Some of them are technically, I don’t know, they called pass interference on Josh Kalu down there when he intercepted the ball, that was kind of a bang-bang play to me. I’ve seen a million of those plays, 50 percent of them, it is one of those calls. You can judge that yourself. But the other parts of that we do need to clean up so that we don’t hurt ourselves.”

Game Notes

Freedom Fighting for Playing Time

Freedom Akinmoladun was a tight end just a season ago, but he's found a home at defensive end, and the position switch is paying off for him big time.

Akinmoladun recorded a pair of sacks Saturday, including one on the final play of the game to ruin any hope of Southern Miss magic. Although he's only in the starting lineup because of Jack Gangwish's injury, Akinmoladun is becoming a star.

"He just continues to grind away and listen to the coaching points," defensive coordinator Mark Banker said. "He plays within the scheme of things and works on his tools and his technique, and he's really coming along as a football player. We always talk about that. Go win a shirt, and he is certainly close to doing that."

Banker mentioned that when Gangwish returns, which might be as soon as this week against Illinois, that the senior will be worked back into the position, but he might not get his old job back entirely. Akinmoladun has earned some time.

He's done that with natural ability but also with an intense attention to detail.

"I think it's a combination of both," Banker said. "There are guys who have to rely on technique and others who rely on athletic ability, and I think Freedom really is a combination of both because he takes everything to heart that he is being taught by coach (Hank) Hughes combined with just his natural athleticism and you get yourself a guy that has four sacks right now."

Drew Brown Sets NCAA Record

It was a career day for Nebraska kicker Drew Brown Saturday. Not only did the sophomore set a personal record with five field goals in the game, but he also tied the NCAA record by knocking them all through in the first half.

"It's something that I can reflect on when I'm done playing and say that I had a really good day that day," he said. "I could have put more points on the board, and it didn't work out, but it's something that I can reflect on when I'm done."

For the game, Brown was 5-of-7, missing a couple in the second half. The misses came from 51 yards and 29 yards. The shorter of which came with 29 seconds on the clock and gave Southern Miss a chance to make a last second drive for the tie.

"I think it was just tipped at the line of scrimmage," Brown said. "I hit the ball well, but I'll have to go back and watch to see if my operation time was slow, but the ball was just tipped at the line of scrimmage."

One of the five historic first half field goals Brown knocked through wouldn't have been good had Brown not gotten a second chance at it. With one second on the second quarter game clock, Southern Miss elected to call timeout just as the ball was snapped to ice the kicker. The maneuver backfired when Brown's first kick was nullified by the timeout and his second attempt



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Freedom Akinmoladun records one of his two sacks against Southern Miss on Saturday.

was true.

"That actually helps more because it can help get that feeling off your foot," Brown said. "Most teams will call timeout before the ball snapped, but it just happened that we got it off, and I was able to kick it."

Westerkamp Posts Career Day

Husker receiver Jordan Westerkamp shredded the Southern Miss secondary Saturday. Out of his slot position, the sure-handed pass catcher hauled in 11 balls (a personal record) for 118 yards and a score. His connection with quarterback Tommy Armstrong was obvious.

"You guys all know that he's my roommate, and we throw the ball around so much in practice every day with each other," Westerkamp said. "Us coming out there and having these completions is expected by both of us. We hold each other to a high standard."

Three important third and long scenarios were converted with Armstrong to Westerkamp completions Saturday, something that wasn't an

accident.

"Those were just good calls, spreading the defense out and basically having everybody hook up around the field," Westerkamp said. "They were great plays, great calls, and Tommy made great throws."

Davie Benched Again

After pulling Daniel Davie early against Miami, the Husker coaching staff had a decision to make for its Southern Miss game plan.

Do you bring Davie, your original starter, back into the lineup, or do you move on with the guys that played better than him a week ago?

Defensive coordinator Mark Bunker and staff went with the latter. Chris Jones, Jonathan Rose and Joshua Kalu took all the reps.

"We made a switch the last game, and in this one three corners played," Bunker said. "We will continue to evaluate and to watch Jonathan work in practice. We will play the best guys that we have."

By the Numbers

Quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. passed for 368 yards in Saturday's game, giving him four career 300-yard passing games, all in the past five games. Armstrong increased his season passing total to 1,266, making him just the second player in school history to reach 1,000 yards passing in just four games, joining Sam Keller who accomplished the feat in 2007.

Armstrong's 368 passing yards pushed his career total to 4,927 moving him ahead of Jerry Tagge (4,704) into fifth place on the Nebraska career passing list.

Armstrong accounted for career-high 431 yards of total offense (previous high was 422 in the 2014 Holiday Bowl) to increase his career total offense to 5,952 yards. He moved past Zac Taylor (5,777 yards) into third place on the NU career list

Armstrong went over the 1,000-yard mark for career rushing on his 16-yard touchdown run.

Nebraska 36, Southern Miss 28



Nebraska captains Nate Gerry, Alex Lewis, Maliek Collins, Tommy Armstrong Jr. and Jordan Westerkamp come out of the smoke-filled tunnel before the Southern Miss game.



Imani Cross gets the ball stripped away for a fumble against the Golden Eagles.



Jonathan Rose made his first career start for the Huskers against Southern Miss.



Clockwise from left: Alonzo Moore and Tommy Armstrong Jr. celebrate Armstrong's 16-yard touchdown run in the second half. Armstrong hurdles D'Nerius Antoine (12) and C.J. Perry. Southern Miss players react to time running out on their comeback bid.

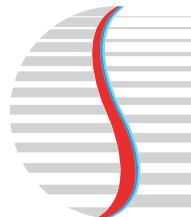
PHOTOS BY JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



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Herbie Husker and Nebraska fans welcome the football team to the stadium several hours before the Southern Miss game.

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Fans start early for 11 a.m. Southern Miss game

PHOTOS BY JIMMY RASH & MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



Korbin Dikon (2) is ready to enjoy his first Husker game with dad Spencer and grandpa Scott. They came up from Salina, Kansas to hang out at the Blur Tailgate Party then watched the Huskers play Southern Miss.



Above: Sam Schaff from Omaha plays a game of Cornhole before the Southern Miss game at Blur Tailgate Party. Below: Mikayla Kreifels of Syracuse, Morgan Dilbeck of Lincoln, Lauren Brudigan of Sioux Falls, S.D., Nathan Lyman of Omaha, Brennan Hron of Kyser, Oregon, Nick McCulloch of Omaha and Joshua Kaszusa of Council Bluffs, Iowa get ready for the Southern Miss game.



Anthony Jacobson of Hastings plays a game of "Jenga" with friends at the Blur Tailgate Party.



Above: Vu, Daniel, Teresa and Nhung Nguyen of Omaha pose for a family pic. Right: Ashley, Wyatt and Makenna Feddersen traveled from Rushville to celebrate Wyatt's birthday at the game.



Chef Aaron Young from Chef au Chef Catering in Lincoln pulls out some fresh breakfast pizzas that were being served at the Blur Tailgate Party.

Huskers Illustrated Fan Experience

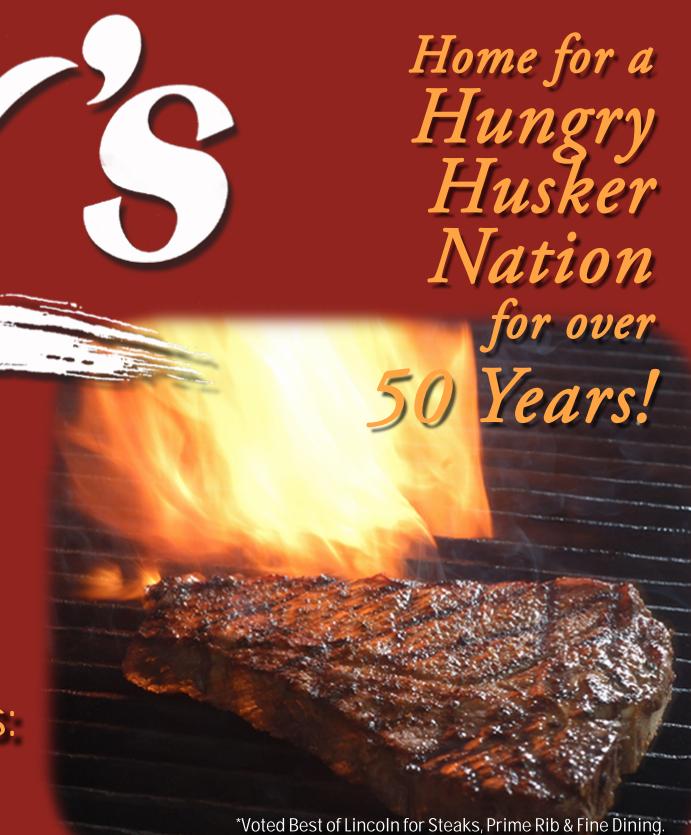


Nick Streck (pictured left) was the contest winner of the Minnesota Vikings vs. Detroit Lions fan experience presented by *Huskers Illustrated*. "As a fan of Ameer Abdullah (pictured above) for his on-the-field skills and his off-the-field character, it was a pleasure to watch him live," Streck said. "The game wasn't a highlight day for Abdullah or any Detroit Lions player, but it was great to experience the game at TCF Stadium. Being my first game as the "visitor" in addition to my first NFL regular season game, I was admittedly a little nervous about how things would go. Those nerves proved unnecessary as Vikings fans were helpful, courteous, and in cheery spirits as their team dominated the day. I won't be a Viking fan anytime soon, but my dad and I had a great experience courtesy of *Huskers Illustrated*. Thank you!"

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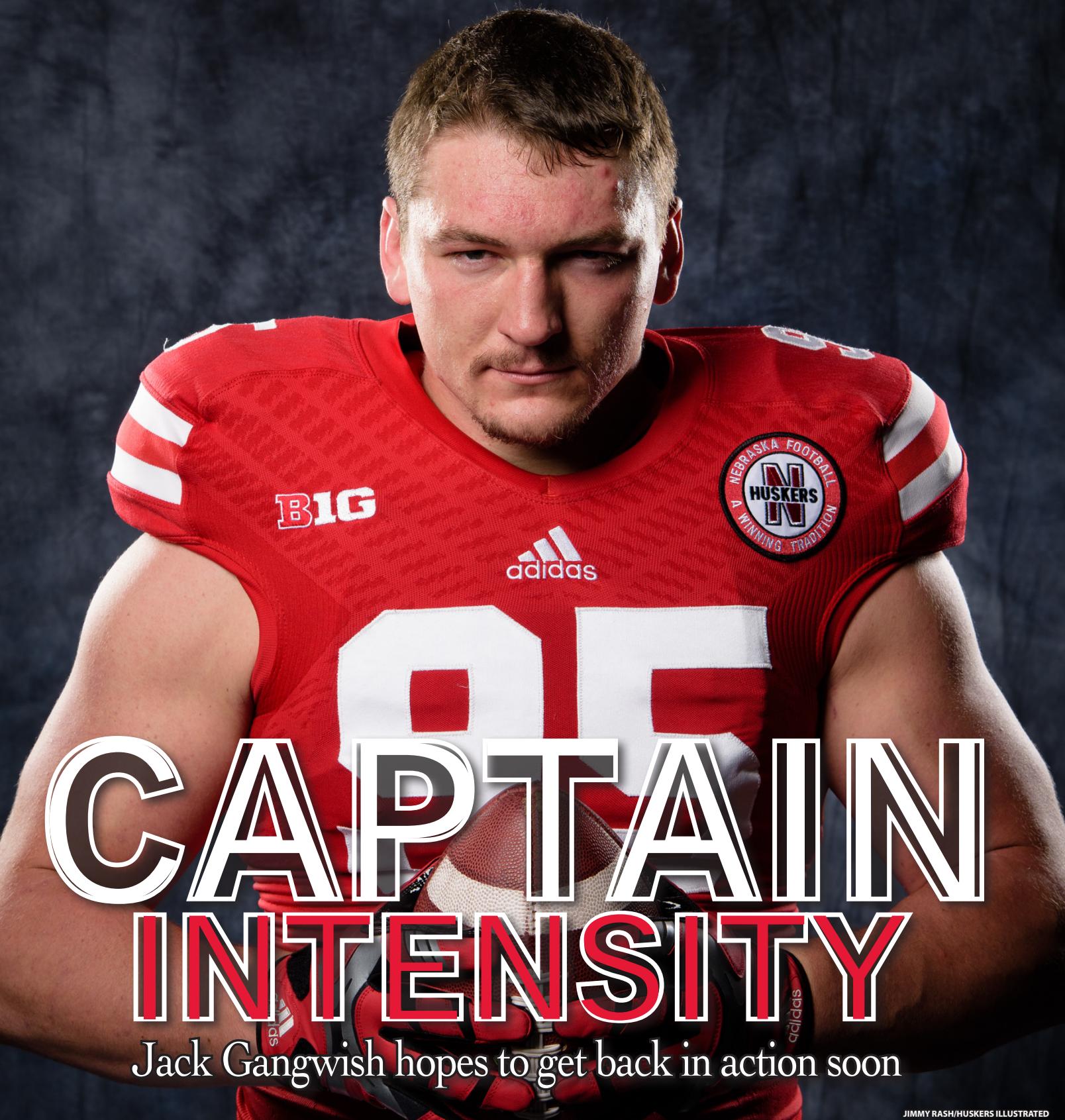
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CAPTAIN INTENSITY

Jack Gangwish hopes to get back in action soon

JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Stories by Lanny Holstein and Darren Ivy

For Nebraska defensive end Jack Gangwish, this season was supposed to be a dream come true, the culmination of all the blood, sweat and tears that he'd given to be a part of this football team and start on the defensive line.

That was temporarily put to a halt as the clock expired against BYU. Gangwish was on the field in defense of the now famous Hail Mary play, trying to get a pass rush on Cougar backup quarterback Tanner Mangum. He spun to the inside and was taken down by a double team. That's when it happened.

"I went down, and I posted on the ground with my left arm and dislocated my elbow," Gangwish said. "These two bones in my forearm kind of came out the back of the joint."

Lying on the ground in pain, Gangwish's attention was momentarily taken away from the action going on around him. As it ended up, he didn't really want to be a part of that either.

"It was probably about the worst 10 seconds of my life," he said. "I dislocated my elbow, and that hurt quite a bit. Then I went down and got my head cranked around just in time to see the guy launch the football and the BYU sideline go nuts, throw their arms up in the air, so that was pretty difficult."

From his vantage point, Gangwish couldn't see the end zone where BYU wide receiver Mitch Mathews was hauling in the back breaker for the Huskers. Judging off the Cougar reaction he knew it wasn't good, but he had to ask what happened anyway.

"Our head trainer, Mark Meyer, got out there and the first thing I said to him was, with not so good language I suppose, but the first thing I said was, 'Did we just lose this game?'" Gangwish said. "He said, 'Yeah.' That was tough."

In the moment, the loss was the bigger deal to Gangwish, who grew up a fervent Nebraska fan in Wood River and takes great pride in playing for the Big Red, but now it's the injury that stings most.

"I've been pretty lucky," he said. "I've been playing football a long time and never sustained a major injury. For it to happen right now when it seemed like it was finally my time is tough. It's difficult."

After waiting his turn and slowly working his way up the depth chart, earning a scholarship along the way, Gangwish had his sights set on a break-out season. He was going to be out there making the big plays in the big games.

"A game like Miami, in the scope of college football I mean, that's old testament stuff. Games like that, that's part of the dream for me," Gangwish said. "I wanted to be there. I wanted to contribute."

It's going to be a few more weeks for Gangwish, who is aggressively attacking his rehab, before he gets back on the field. But that hasn't stopped him from applying his trademark drive and tenacity to his current situation.

"Just because I've been here a while and the staff knows me, knows how I am, they are always trying to pull the reigns back a little bit, don't want me going too hard or pushing it too far," Gangwish said. "Yeah, there is a worry just because of my personality, the way I work it is a little bit of an additional concern."

Speak with Gangwish for even a few minutes and it becomes clear just how eager he is to get back on the field and how much it pains him to miss time. Whatever can be done to speed up the healing process, you better bet the defensive end has tried it.

"I don't want to be the guy on the bench," Gangwish said. "I want to be out there helping, doing my part. It's difficult for me as a competitive human being that likes to compete and to work."



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Langsdorf Calling Plays

When Nebraska offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf came back to college football after spending a year in the pros, one of the big draws was the chance to call plays. The coach was in charge of the quarterbacks in 2014 with the New York Giants, but when his old friend and longtime head coach, Mike Riley offered him a chance to call plays at Nebraska, he couldn't turn it down.

Langsdorf called the plays off and on at Oregon State under Riley, but in their last season together, it was the head man that held the role. When Langsdorf left for the NFL following the 2013 season, Riley felt he was losing a blossoming coordinator.

"I called plays through most of 2013, and then (Langsdorf) did at the end, just because I thought, at that point he was really ready," Riley said. "He and I had worked together for so long."

Through the nonconference portion of the season, Nebraska's offense has been a mix of run heavy and pass heavy game plans. Riley likes what he's seen out of his play caller.

"I feel really good about what he's doing," Riley said. "You can tell how the flow is going, because the guy that's calling plays, I can hear him (on the headset). You can't stutter, it's got to go. I think he's doing a real nice job."

That doesn't mean Riley doesn't miss calling the plays himself. At times, he might slip a call or two into Langsdorf's ear, but for the most part, he tries to stay out of the way.

"I think you've got to be real careful when you do interject, because there's a thought process going on," Riley said. "You've got to do it early. It's better between series. As I look at defenses, I can help that way."

For the head man, it's a better situation for him to be freed of the intense responsibility during the game. He has enough going on outside of the offensive end.

"What I also found is that you are just locked in to one side of the ball a lot, whether it is between series when you're talking to the quarterback or working with the signal caller," Riley said. "I think I can do better like this right now with talking to (special teams coordinator) Bruce Read, listening to the defensive calls in between, and being able to talk to those guys, too."

Lewis' Facebook Rampage Handled

The 36-33 overtime loss to Miami was tough on Nebraska's team, but Alex Lewis in particular. The senior captain made a frustration mistake, hitting Miami cornerback Corn Elder after he had intercepted Husker quarterback Tommy Armstrong and was well out of bounds in overtime. Lewis heard about the mistake from fans on social media following the game, and responded with a longwinded Facebook post ripping Husker fans as "fair-weather" and threatening to "Let loose a storm that the Huskers haven't seen since 95 and you will kiss my feet when I'm done with you!"

Coach Mike Riley addressed the posting, which was quickly deleted, with an undisclosed punishment. The coach did clarify that Lewis will remain a captain.

"First of all, I know he feels bad and sorry about his response," Riley said. "Alex is a good guy. He's sensitive. He made a mistake on a penalty that was bad and he knows that, we all know that."

Riley said he mainly took offense to the attack on his team's fanbase. "You don't need to gain your identity from social media and react



Injured wide receiver De'Mornay Pierson-El watches Saturday's game.

like that, and secondly, you don't generalize like that about a group of people and he knows that," Riley said. "So that basically was the nature of our talk."

Social media has been a troublesome mechanism throughout college athletics, sparking debates nationally as to whether players should be allowed on it at all during the season.

"I don't have a rule saying, 'Don't go on it,'" Riley said. "I have advice on how to handle it, and so there are consequences to portraying our team in the wrong way with a situation like that."

Linebackers Hurting

Nebraska linebacker Michael Rose-Ivey will miss at least four weeks with a groin strain, according to coach Mike Riley. The outside linebacker had just come off a suspension to start the season when he pulled up lame in the Miami game. His position mate, middle linebacker Josh Banderas, injured his own groin in week one against BYU and missed the South Alabama game, so Miami was the first time the starting trio (add in Dedrick Young) was together.

"I'm disappointed in that, just because I was excited about getting healthy and getting to play together as a group that we would term "the starters," which I guess has been one time now," Riley said. "In the meantime, what we do in nickel, and the fact that, hopefully, Josh Banderas gets really healthy and feeling good, we play two regular linebackers in our nickel defense, so I think we'll be all right there with Dedrick and Josh, for instance, that would be playing."

The focus of the offseason was already on finding linebackers other than Banderas and Rose-Ivey that could play. Depth was a concern then, and the injuries have only heightened that.

Redshirt freshman Luke Gifford and converted rush end Marcus Newby are the next in line should Nebraska use its base package with Rose-Ivey out.

"I think we're strengthened by the fact that Luke Gifford has played a lot of football for us, and Marcus Newby played a lot in the game before, so guys have gotten experience playing, and that helps us a little bit," Riley said. "It's just too bad that trio couldn't stay together and play together for a bit, because I think that's a good group."

The Return Of DPE?

When De'Mornay Pierson-El went down with a Jones fracture two weeks before the season, the original prognosis was he'd be out for 4-6 games. Well, we are coming up on the early portion of that estimate, meaning he'd be back for Illinois this weekend, and coach Mike Riley hinted at that being the case before the Southern Miss game.

"It's getting close," the coach said. "Everything is progressing without a hitch right now. I think in the next week, not for this week, but in the next week or two after this, we're looking at something we can really talk about in here."

Hometown Huskers

Chris Weber makes first start for Nebraska at linebacker

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photo by Jimmy Rash

ELKHORN IS beginning to look like a walk-on pipeline.

The Class B high school isn't sending many players Nebraska's way via the scholarship offer, but with offensive lineman Jake and Spencer Long, running back Graham Nabity and linebacker Trevor Roach all coming over via the walk-on program, it's the cool thing to do if you are an Antler football player these days.

Chris Weber is the latest success story to come from the West Omaha high school. As a redshirt sophomore, Weber has already seen the field on a number of special teams units, and he even started at middle linebacker against South Alabama when Josh Banderas was injured.

"I expected to play," Weber said. "I wanted to be one of those walk-on success stories because I'm a participant. I didn't want to come here and wear the jersey around, you know, say that I play Husker football. I wanted to contribute and bring something to the team. That was my goal."

It's that attitude that has Weber lined up for more than just a single start this season. His smarts and his drive put him in front of the coaches right away in spring camp, and he hasn't moved from top backup at middle linebacker ever since.

"I think a want-to is pretty huge, especially when you are maybe not as athletically gifted as some of these guys that are coming in," he said. "You have to have some want-to to develop your body and stuff like that."

It's been a dream of Weber's since he was little to play Nebraska football, so heading a few miles down the road was no surprise to anyone who knew him. Scholarship offers from some smaller division schools didn't stand a chance when it came to beating out the prestige and history of Nebraska football. It also didn't

hurt that Weber earned a full-tuition Regents scholarship from Nebraska for his work in the classroom.

With a new coaching staff in town this offseason, Weber was in the same boat as everyone else when it came to proving himself. He'd built up a little trust with the old staff, but the slate was wiped clean in the spring.

"It was just like coming in as a freshman," Weber said. "You have to rebuild it with the new staff."

The difference for Weber came in the need Nebraska had at linebacker. Defensive coordinator Mark Bunker, linebackers coach Trent Bray and the rest of the staff rallied to recruit as many players as they could at the position this winter, but the guys they pulled in are freshman now, and there is an immediate need.

That's where Weber stepped in.

"Coach Bray told me in fall camp that he expected me to help us this year, and when I heard that, with the depth we had at linebacker, I knew that at any time I would be one play away," he said.

That play happened for Weber in the opening game of the season. Banderas went down with a groin strain against BYU, and Weber was the next man up. His quick transition into the new defensive schemes and general smarts fast tracked him onto the field.

"I think it probably played a big role in why I started against South Alabama," he said. "They trusted me to get guys lined up, be in the right spots and do the right things out there."

It was that and the drive that brought him to Nebraska in the first place.

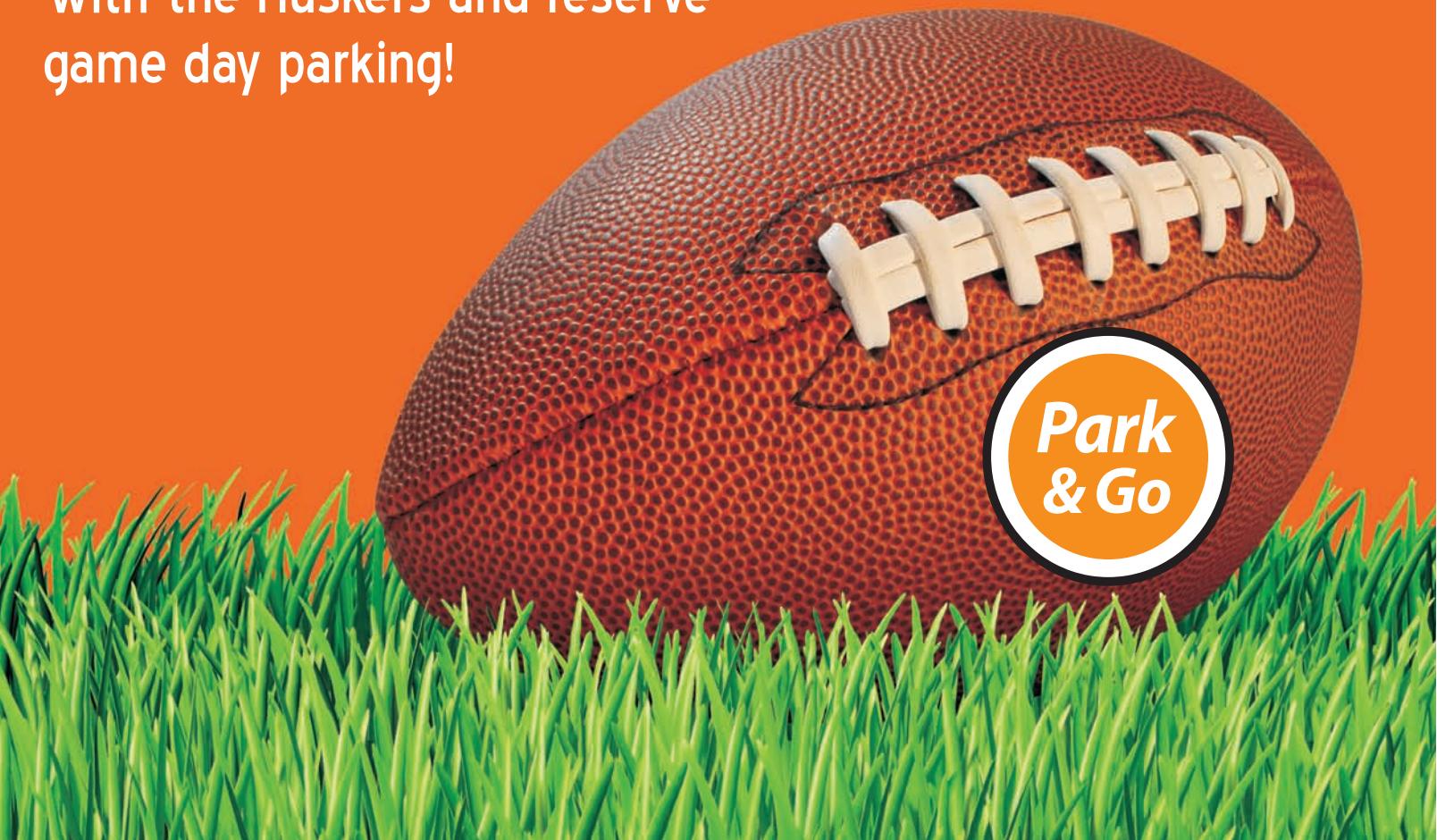
"I just think that I was different in the fact that I really wanted to contribute," Weber said. "I wasn't going to be stopped from contributing."



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|----|-----------------------|-----|------|-----|------|---|----|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|---|
| 1 | Joseph, Boaz | DB | 6-1 | 190 | So. | Weston, Fla. (Cypress Bay) | 41 | McNitt, Luke | TE | 6-2 | 240 | So. | Kearney, Neb. (Nebraska-Kearney) (Kearney) |
| 1 | Westerkamp, Jordan | WR | 6-0 | 195 | Jr. | Lombard, Ill. (Montini Catholic) | 42 | Foster, Trey | TE | 6-0 | 245 | Jr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) |
| 2 | Darlington, Zack | QB | 6-2 | 205 | RFr. | Apopka, Fla. (Apopka) | 42 | Koley, Creighton | DB | 6-0 | 180 | RFr. | Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic) |
| 2 | Mosley, Trai | DB | 5-10 | 170 | RFr. | Pflugerville, Texas (Hendrickson) | 43 | Classen, Brett | WR | 6-2 | 205 | So. | Medina, Minn. (Winona State) (Wayzata) |
| 2 | Stevenson, Jordan | IB | 5-9 | 205 | Fr. | Dallas, Texas (South Oak Cliff) | 43 | Ferguson, Tyrin | LB | 6-2 | 200 | Fr. | New Orleans, La. (Edna Karr) |
| 3 | Alston, Lavan | WR | 6-0 | 175 | Fr. | Oxnard, Calif. (St. Bonaventure) | 44 | McCann, Mitch | FB | 6-0 | 235 | Jr. | Omaha, Neb. (Burke) |
| 3 | Newby, Marcus | LB | 6-1 | 235 | So. | North Potomac, Md. (Quince Orchard) | 44 | Stoltenberg, Mick | DL | 6-5 | 265 | RFr. | Gretna, Neb. (Gretna) |
| 4 | Anderson, Avery | DB | 6-0 | 175 | Fr. | Surprise, Ariz. (Pine Creek (Colorado Springs)) | 45 | Natter, A.J. | DE | 6-5 | 250 | So. | Milton, Wis. (Milton) |
| 4 | Armstrong Jr., Tommy | QB | 6-1 | 220 | Jr. | Cibolo, Texas (Steele) | 45 | Reimers, Bryan | WR | 6-5 | 210 | RFr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln East) |
| 5 | Young, Dedrick | LB | 6-1 | 220 | Fr. | Peoria, Ariz. (Centennial) | 47 | Jarzynka, Matt | DE | 6-4 | 240 | RFr. | Loup City, Neb. (Loup City) |
| 6 | Bush, AJ | QB | 6-3 | 220 | RFr. | Alpharetta, Ga. (Norcross) | 48 | Evans, Erik | DE | 6-3 | 255 | So. | Waverly, Neb. (Waverly) |
| 6 | Lee Jr., Eric | DB | 6-0 | 180 | Fr. | Milton, Mass. (Valor Christian (Colorado)) | 48 | Rahn, Gabe | WR | 6-1 | 190 | So. | Le Mars, Iowa (Le Mars) |
| 7 | Allen, Taariq | WR | 6-3 | 200 | Sr. | Weston, Mass. (The Rivers School) | 49 | Hemphill, Austin | FB | 6-0 | 220 | Fr. | Gretna, Neb. (Gretna) |
| 7 | Collins, Maliek | DT | 6-2 | 300 | Jr. | Kansas City, Mo. (Center) | 49 | Weber, Chris | LB | 6-3 | 220 | So. | Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn) |
| 8 | Jones, Chris | DB | 6-0 | 180 | So. | Jacksonville, Fla. (Sandalwood) | 50 | Johns, Garret | DL | 6-0 | 280 | Jr. | Aurora, Neb. (Aurora) |
| 8 | Morgan Jr., Stanley | WR | 6-0 | 185 | Fr. | New Orleans, La. (St. Augustine) | 51 | Brugmann, Jared | LB | 6-2 | 225 | Fr. | Gretna, Neb. (Gretna) |
| 9 | Broekemeier, Tyson | QB | 6-1 | 200 | Sr. | Aurora, Neb. (Aurora) | 51 | Freudenburg, Ryan | OL | 6-5 | 305 | RFr. | Norfolk, Neb. (Lutheran-Northeast) |
| 9 | Burth, Sam | WR | 6-3 | 200 | Sr. | Murdock, Neb. (Elmwood-Murdock) | 52 | Bandera, Josh | LB | 6-2 | 235 | Jr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest) |
| 9 | Neal, DaiShon | DE | 6-7 | 250 | Fr. | Omaha, Neb. (Central) | 53 | Boryca, Alex | LB | 6-2 | 220 | RFr. | Cozad, Neb. (Cozad) |
| 10 | Kalu, Joshua | DB | 6-1 | 185 | So. | Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor) | 54 | Painter, Robby | OL | 6-4 | 290 | Jr. | Centennial, Colo. (Grandview) |
| 10 | Turner, Jamal | WR | 6-1 | 190 | Sr. | Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston) | 54 | Poppen, Garrett | LB | 6-1 | 215 | RFr. | Giltner, Neb. (Giltner) |
| 11 | Carter, Cethan | TE | 6-4 | 240 | Jr. | New Orleans, La. (Archbishop Rummel) | 55 | Maurice, Kevin | DT | 6-3 | 280 | Jr. | Orlando, Fla. (Freedom) |
| 12 | Gifford, Luke | LB | 6-3 | 215 | RFr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) | 55 | Thurston, Paul | OL | 6-5 | 295 | Jr. | Arvada, Colo. (Arvada West) |
| 13 | Hovey, Lane | WR | 6-4 | 205 | Jr. | Adel, Iowa (Adel-Desoto-Minburn) | 56 | Gaylord, Christian | OL | 6-6 | 275 | Fr. | Baldwin City, Kan. (Baldwin City) |
| 13 | Talan, Adrienne | LB | 6-1 | 200 | Fr. | Davie, Fla. (Flanagan) | 56 | Simpson, Brad | LB | 6-0 | 225 | Jr. | Omaha, Neb. (Ralston) |
| 14 | Rose, Jonathan | CB | 6-1 | 195 | Sr. | Leeds, Ala. (Auburn) (Leeds) | 57 | Sterup, Zach | OL | 6-8 | 320 | Sr. | Hastings, Neb. (Hastings St. Cecilia) |
| 15 | Pierson-El, De'Mornay | WR | 5-9 | 185 | So. | Alexandria, Va. (West Potomac) | 57 | Weinmaster, Jacob | LB | 6-0 | 200 | Fr. | Loveland, Colo. (Loveland) |
| 15 | Rose-Ivey, Michael | LB | 5-11 | 240 | Jr. | Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst) | 58 | Lopez, Joel | DL | 6-2 | 260 | So. | Saint Charles, Ill. (Burlington Central) |
| 16 | Reed, Antonio | DB | 6-2 | 200 | Fr. | Memphis, Tenn. (Southaven (Miss.)) | 58 | Whitaker, Corey | OL | 6-4 | 290 | Jr. | Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta) |
| 17 | Fyfe, Ryker | QB | 6-2 | 210 | Jr. | Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island) | 59 | Cleveland, Brody | LB | 6-2 | 210 | Fr. | Ogallala, Neb. (Ogallala) |
| 17 | King, Sedrick | DE | 6-4 | 240 | RFr. | Plant City, Fla. (Plant City) | 59 | Finnin, Matt | OL | 6-7 | 305 | Sr. | Crete, Ill. (College of DuPage) (Crete Monee) |
| 18 | Barry, Mohamed | LB | 6-1 | 215 | Fr. | Grayson, Ga. (Grayson) | 62 | Conrad, Cole | OL | 6-5 | 290 | RFr. | Fremont, Neb. (Archbishop Bergan) |
| 19 | Keels, Joe | DE | 6-3 | 265 | Sr. | Kenosha, Wis. (Highland CC) (Bradford) | 63 | Farmer, Tanner | OL | 6-4 | 310 | RFr. | Highland, Ill. (Highland) |
| 21 | Jackson, Charles | DB | 5-11 | 180 | Jr. | Spring, Texas (Klein Collins) | 65 | Reeves, Ryne | OL | 6-3 | 300 | Sr. | Crete, Neb. (Crete) |
| 21 | Wilbon, Mikale | IB | 5-8 | 190 | RFr. | Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute) | 66 | Utter, Dylan | OL | 6-1 | 285 | Jr. | Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista) |
| 22 | Ozigbo, Devine | RB | 5-11 | 225 | Fr. | Sachse, Texas (Sachse) | 67 | Foster, Jerald | OL | 6-3 | 310 | RFr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) |
| 22 | Ridder, Anthony | DB | 6-2 | 205 | Sr. | West Point, Neb. (West Point Central Catholic) | 68 | Gates, Nick | OL | 6-5 | 290 | RFr. | Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman) |
| 23 | Davie, Daniel | CB | 6-1 | 190 | Sr. | Beatrice, Neb. (Beatrice) | 70 | Kondolo, Chongo | OL | 6-4 | 300 | Sr. | Carrollton, Texas (Fresno City College) (Creekview) |
| 23 | Rose, Austin | IB | 6-1 | 215 | RFr. | Lincoln, Neb. (North Star) | 71 | Lewis, Alex | OL | 6-6 | 290 | Sr. | Tempe, Ariz. (Colorado) (Mountain Pointe) |
| 24 | Williams, Aaron | DB | 5-11 | 185 | Fr. | Atlanta, Ga. (Carver) | 72 | Hannon, Zach | OL | 6-5 | 305 | So. | Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst) |
| 25 | Gerry, Nate | S | 6-2 | 205 | Jr. | Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington) | 73 | Hahn, Sam | OL | 6-6 | 300 | Jr. | DeWitt, Neb. (North Dakota St.) (Tri-County) |
| 25 | Holtmeier, Blake | WR | 6-2 | 200 | RFr. | Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic) | 74 | Barnett, Jalin | OL | 6-4 | 310 | Fr. | Lawton, Okla. (Lawton) |
| 26 | Connelly, Thomas | LB | 5-11 | 205 | RFr. | Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic) | 75 | Anderson, Fyn | DL | 6-3 | 260 | Fr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) |
| 26 | Pelzer, Brady | WR | 5-11 | 180 | RFr. | Belleview, Neb. (Belleview East) | 75 | Long, Chris | OL | 6-4 | 300 | Sr. | Blair, Neb. (Blair) |
| 26 | Sutcliffe, Jamie | PK | 6-2 | 190 | Jr. | Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Utah/Pierce College) (Thousand Oaks) | 76 | Johnson Jr., Dwayne | OL | 6-6 | 280 | So. | Houston, Texas (Bellaire) |
| 27 | Foltz, Sam | P | 6-1 | 200 | Jr. | Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island) | 76 | Owen, Dylan | DL | 6-5 | 235 | RFr. | Westchester, N.Y. (Bridgton Academy) (Somers) |
| 27 | Johnson, Noah | RB | 6-0 | 195 | Fr. | Sutton, Neb. (Sutton) | 77 | Knevel, David | OL | 6-9 | 310 | So. | Brantford, Ontario, Canada (Pauline Johnson Collegiate) |
| 27 | Williams, Kieron | S | 6-0 | 190 | So. | Shreveport, La. (Air Force Prep) (C.E. Byrd) | 78 | Price, Givens | DT | 6-4 | 310 | Sr. | Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor) |
| 28 | Cockrell, Byerson | DB | 6-0 | 185 | Sr. | Columbus, Miss. (East Mississippi CC) (Columbus) | 79 | Decker, Michael | OL | 6-4 | 285 | Fr. | Omaha, Neb. (North) |
| 28 | Taylor, Adam | IB | 6-2 | 210 | So. | Katy, Texas (Katy) | 82 | Moore, Alonzo | WR | 6-2 | 195 | Jr. | Winnfield, La. (Winnfield Senior) |
| 29 | Graham, Nolan | DB | 5-11 | 200 | RFr. | Firth, Neb. (Norris) | 84 | Cotton, Sam | TE | 6-4 | 250 | Jr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) |
| 29 | Nabity, Graham | IB | 6-0 | 210 | Jr. | Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn) | 85 | Snyder, Matt | TE | 6-5 | 245 | Fr. | San Ramon, Calif. (California) |
| 30 | Kitrell, Bo | FB | 6-1 | 225 | RFr. | Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood) | 86 | Sutton, David | TE | 6-3 | 255 | Sr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) |
| 31 | Young, Conor | WR | 6-1 | 170 | Fr. | Cozad, Neb. (Cozad) | 87 | Reilly, Brandon | WR | 6-1 | 195 | Jr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest) |
| 32 | Cross, Imani | IB | 6-1 | 240 | Sr. | Gainesville, Ga. (North Hall) | 88 | Dzuris, Ross | DE | 6-3 | 250 | Jr. | Plattsmouth, Neb. (Plattsmouth) |
| 32 | Davis, Alex | DE | 6-5 | 230 | Fr. | Riviera Beach, Fla. (Dwyer) | 88 | Hoppes, Tyler | TE | 6-4 | 240 | So. | Lincoln, Neb. (Wayne State) (Southwest) |
| 33 | Bailey, Christian | WR | 5-11 | 205 | So. | San Clemente, Calif. (San Clemente) | 89 | Ketter, Connor | TE | 6-5 | 245 | So. | Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic) |
| 33 | McKay, Garrett | LB | 6-0 | 210 | Jr. | Anaheim Hills, Calif. (Santa Ana College) (Servite) | 90 | McMullen, Greg | DE | 6-3 | 280 | Jr. | Akron, Ohio (Hoban) |
| 34 | Brown, Drew | PK | 5-11 | 180 | So. | Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll) | 91 | Akinmoladun, Freedom | DE | 6-4 | 255 | RFr. | Grandview, Mo. (Grandview) |
| 34 | Newby, Terrell | IB | 5-10 | 200 | Jr. | Los Angeles, Calif. (Chaminade) | 92 | Urbach, Chase | LS | 6-3 | 200 | Fr. | Grosse Pointe, Mich. (Grosse Pointe South) |
| 35 | Janovich, Andy | FB | 6-1 | 230 | Sr. | Gretna, Neb. (Gretna) | 92 | Williams, Kevin | DT | 6-2 | 275 | Sr. | Holland, Ohio (Springfield) |
| 36 | Karel, Reid | ATH | 6-3 | 190 | Fr. | Seward, Neb. (Seward) | 94 | Davis, Khalil | DL | 6-2 | 265 | Fr. | Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs) |
| 37 | Lazaro, Noah | LB | 6-2 | 225 | Fr. | Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southwest) | 95 | Gangwish, Jack | DE | 6-2 | 265 | Sr. | Wood River, Neb. (Wood River) |
| 37 | Mazour, Wyatt | RB | 5-9 | 190 | Fr. | Albion, Neb. (Boone Central) | 95 | Lindsay, Spencer | PK | 5-9 | 205 | Jr. | Kearney, Neb. (Kearney) |
| 38 | Jordan, Harrison | FB | 5-10 | 230 | So. | Omaha, Neb. (Westside) | 96 | Davis, Carlos | DL | 6-2 | 265 | Fr. | Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs) |
| 39 | Nelson, Jordan | IB | 5-7 | 180 | Jr. | Omaha, Neb. (Burke) | 97 | Rath, Logan | DT | 6-4 | 280 | Jr. | Giltner, Neb. (South Dakota St.) (Giltner) |
| 40 | Betka, Ty | WR | 5-7 | 165 | Jr. | Superior, Neb. (Drake) | 98 | Valentine, Vincent | DT | 6-3 | 320 | Jr. | Edwardsville, Ill. (Edwardsville) |
| 40 | Ober, Jordan | LS | 6-1 | 200 | Fr. | Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman) | 99 | Newell, Peyton | DL | 6-3 | 270 | RFr. | Hiawatha, Kan. (Hiawatha) |



2015 SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| Sept. 4 | Kent State | W, 52-3 |
| Sept. 12 | Western Illinois | W, 44-0 |
| Sept. 19 | @ North Carolina | L, 48-14 |
| Sept. 26 | M. Tennessee State | W, 27-25 |
| Oct. 3 | Nebraska | |
| Oct. 10 | @ Iowa | |
| Oct. 24 | Wisconsin | |
| Oct. 31 | @ Penn State | |
| Nov. 7 | @ Purdue | |
| Nov. 14 | Ohio State | |
| Nov. 21 | Minnesota | |
| Nov. 28 | Northwestern | |

2014 RESULTS

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Youngstown State | W, 28-17 |
| Western Kentucky | W, 42-34 |
| @ Washington | L, 19-44 |
| Texas State | W, 42-35 |
| @ Nebraska | L, 14-45 |
| Purdue | L, 28-38 |
| @ Wisconsin | L, 35-42 |
| Minnesota | W, 28-24 |
| @ Ohio State | L, 14-55 |
| Iowa | L, 14-30 |
| Penn State | W, 16-14 |
| @ Northwestern | W, 47-33 |
| Louisiana Tech | L, 35-18* |

*Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl

HEAD COACH

Bill Cubit is currently the interim head coach at Illinois, replacing the fired Tm Beckman on Aug. 28 after Beckman was accused of mistreating his players.



Prior to that, Cubit was the team's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. He is known for his offensive prowess being the OC at Missouri, Rutgers, Stanford and then at Western Michigan where he was also the head coach from 2005-2012. Cubit is still in charge of the Illini's offense, guiding the team to a 3-1 record. Son Ryan is the team's quarterback coach and recruiting coordinator.



Running back Josh Ferguson has the ability to be a game changer for Illinois.

Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photos courtesy of University of Illinois Athletics

Offensive shootout could ensue in Champaign

Illinois could have its best opportunity to beat the Huskers this Saturday given its potential on offense.

Nebraska's defense is reeling after being shredded by Miami's and Southern Mississippi's passing attacks. NU's lack of a pass rush from its defensive line and inability to stop the deep pass has opponent's game planning to throw more often than normal.

Even though the Blackshirt defense has a top-10 defense against the run, it is ranked 127th in pass defense and 102nd in total defense. It is giving up 26.5 points per game.

Illinois meanwhile is better on defense, ranked 46th on pass defense and, 24th overall. It is giving up 19 points per game. Those rankings bode well for an upset but Nebraska has a top-20 offense and will need to be stopped so the Illini offense can get as many chances as possible to go against the fragile NU defense.

Prediction

Nebraska should be favored in this game but you shouldn't be surprised if the Fighting Illini can move the ball successfully on offense and get a win against the Cornhuskers for the first time since 1924.

The only way NU will win this one will be to outscore Illinois in a game that will be in the 30s or 40s for both teams.

Nebraska 38 Illinois 34

Last meeting in Champaign

Nebraska 59, Illinois 14

Sept. 20, 1986

The last time Nebraska and Illinois hooked up in Champaign was in 1986. It was a night where former Illini and NFL great Dick Butkus had his jersey retired.

With a sellout stadium, the game didn't live up to the excitement for Illinois fans as the No. 5/6 Huskers scored a touchdown in the first 12 seconds of the game. Cor-

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nerback Brian Davis intercepted a pass and returned it for 32 yards and a touchdown. Ironically the number 32 was also his jersey number.

The Big Red onslaught continued as they scored three more touchdowns to build a 28-0 lead after the first quarter.

The offensive star for NU was I-back Keith Jones, who rushed for 168 yards on 16 carries, including a 78-yard touchdown run in that first quarter.

“With a guy like Keith Jones back there, you can just get a piece of a guy you are blocking, and I know he’s (Jones) gone. It was great to see Keith flying by on that run,” said NU offensive lineman Keven Lightner.

Meanwhile the defense held the Fighting Illini to only three yards rushing and just over 200 yards passing.

The Blackshirts sacked the Illinois quarterback six times and got two fumbles and one interception.

Three key players on offense

Illinois is averaging 162 yards rushing and about 243 yards passing. They put up around 34 points per game. If you want to stop their offense, you need to stop three key guys.

Running back Josh Ferguson flirted with the chance to enter the NFL Draft but decided to return for his senior year. Through four games he hasn’t lit up the stat line like the Illini would have liked, rushing for just 331 yards and three touchdowns.

Wide receiver Geronimo Allison is picking up the slack becoming the big play threat. He is averaging around 90 yards receiving. He is a tall and athletic (6-foot-4, 200 pounds) and can create mismatches on deep balls.

The ring leader on offense is 6-foot-5 gun-slinger Wes Lunt.

He is completing over 60 percent of his passes but hasn’t had that notable game performance yet this year. Regardless, teams need to beware of this quarterback as he could break out at any time.

Defense better than expected

So far this year, it was has been senior defensive back Clayton Fejedelem who has led the Illini defense.

Fejedelem leads the team in tackles with

38 and scored a touchdown last week against Middle Tennessee State on a blocked punt.

The defense doesn’t have any standout players of note but they have showed marked improvement from last year where they gave up 456.4 yards per game. And against the run, only five teams in the nation were worse at trying to stop it. But through four games this year, they have given up just 110.8 per and is currently ranked 27th in the country.

Last game

Illinois 27, Middle Tennessee State 25

Played Sept. 26 at Champaign, Illinois

Illinois got a 51-yard field goal from senior Taylor Zalewski with a little over two minutes left to escape with a 27-25 win over Middle Tennessee State.

“I have a lot of confidence in him, I see him do it in practice,” said Illinois head coach Bill Cubit. “You have to give him a lot of credit. That’s a high-pressure situation. He’ll feel real good about hitting that one, and next time he’s in that pressure situation he won’t feel as much pressure.”

Lunt was 29-49 passing for 238 yards and one TD. His favorite target was receiver Geronimo Allison who caught 10 passes for 128 yards.

The offense didn’t put up as many points on their end but got help from its special teams on a blocked punt returned for a score.

“I know some people use the term the ugly win,” Cubit said. “Well, I’ve never seen an ugly win. It’s either a win or a loss. Sometimes you play really well and you don’t win and sometimes you don’t play very well and you don’t win. So, we’re going to take it, we’re going to enjoy ourselves; we didn’t play real well. Usually you need two phases of offense, defense and special teams to win – we didn’t. I thought we lost two phases but I thought the defense went out there and played really well. You usually don’t win games like that.”

Player of last game

Dawuane Smoot – The junior defensive end tallied two sacks and three tackles for losses; both were both career highs. His play helped the Illini hold Middle Tennessee State to only 38 yards rushing.



Clayton Fejedelem

Fast Facts

Location: Champaign, Illinois

Enrollment: 44,942

Founded: 1867

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Stadium Capacity: 60,670

Nickname: Fighting Illini

Colors: Orange and Blue

Defense: Multiple

Offense: Spread/Multiple

2014 Record: 6-7

Conference: Big Ten

Letterwinners Returning: 59

Starters Returning/Lost: 16/8

HUSKERS

— ILLUSTRATED —

DEFENSE

TOM OSBORNE FIELD

PR
1 - Jordan Westerkamp
10 - Jamal Turner

CB1
10 - Joshua Kalu
23 - Daniel Davie
2 - Trai Mosley

SAFETY1
28 - Byerson Cockrell
24 - Aaron Williams

LB1
3 - Marcus Newby
12 - Luke Gifford

DE
90 - Greg McMullen
88 - Ross Dzuris

SAFETY1
25 - Nathan Gerry
27 - Kieron Williams

LB2
52 - Josh Banderas
49 - Chris Weber

DT
7 - Maliek Collins
55 - Kevin Maurice

Punter
27 - Sam Foltz
9 - Tyson Broekemeier

LB3
5 - Dedrick Young
3 - Marcus Newby

DT
98 - Vincent Valentine
92 - Kevin Williams

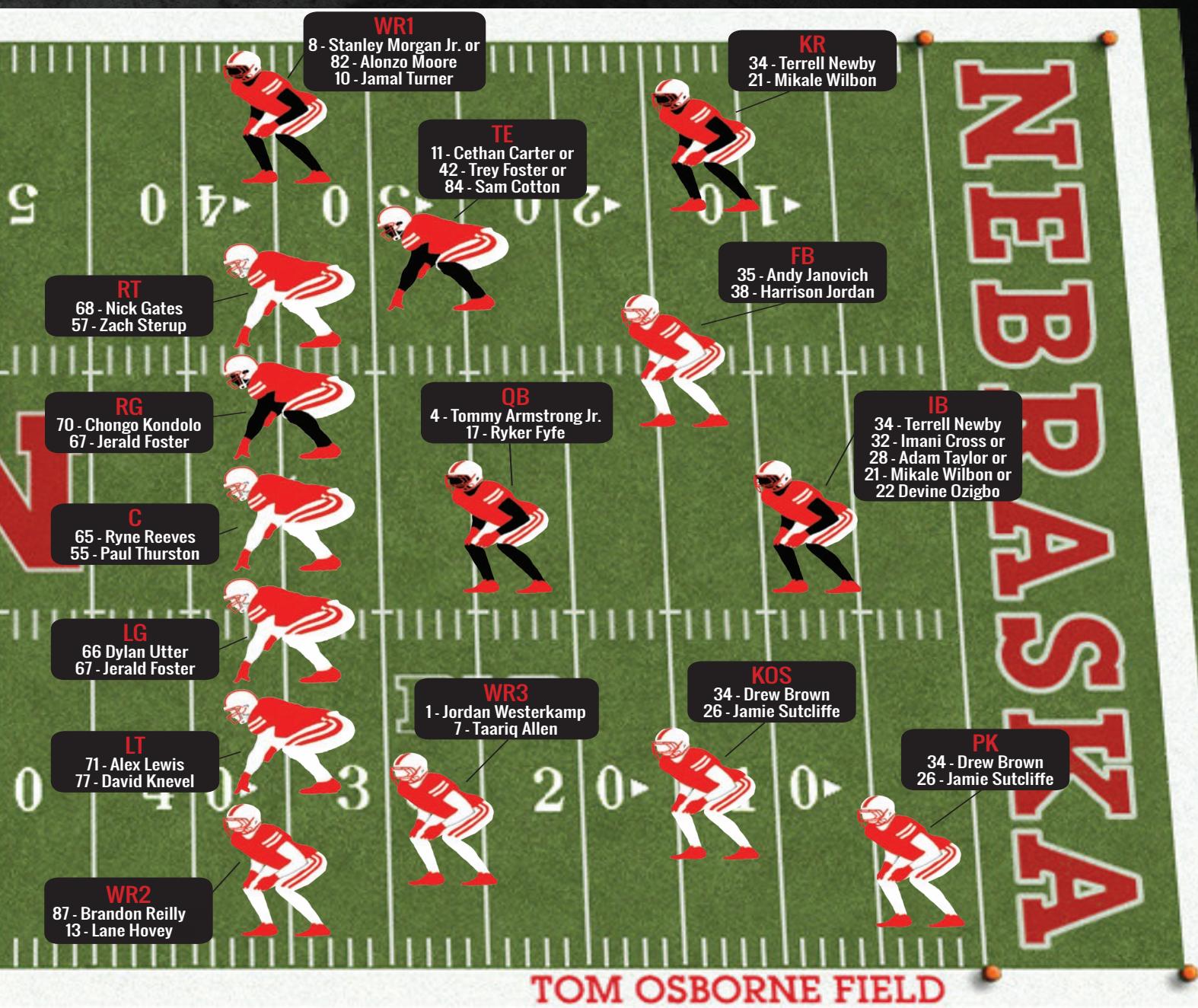
DE
91 - Freedom Akinmoladun
88 - Ross Dzuris

CB2
14 - Jonathan Rose
8 - Chris Jones

LS
40 - Jordan Ober
92 - Chase Urbach

Projected Depth Chart

OFFENSE





BIGTEN NOTEBOOK

Ultimate Bragging Rights

Big Ten Conference boasts nation's top two ranked teams for the first time since 2006

| DOUG GRIFFITHS

BIG TEN FOOTBALL has come a long way in a short period of time.

Not too long ago, the conference was being ridiculed from coast to coast for its postseason failures and not being a factor in the national championship hunt.

Fast forward to the 2014 season and Ohio State surprised all to win its fifth national crown in football and take home the Big Ten's first national championship in the sport since 2002.

And things have only gotten better for the conference in 2015.

When the Associated Press poll was released for the week of Sept. 21, two Big Ten teams occupied the top two spots as Ohio State remained at No. 1 despite its home scare to Northern Illinois and unbeaten Michigan State slid into the No. 2 spot.

It's the first time the Big Ten has had the top two teams in the college football rankings since November 2006 when No. 1 Ohio State hosted No. 2 Michigan, a game the Buckeyes won 42-39.

Perhaps the Buckeyes and Spartans are on a collision course this season. They meet Nov. 21 in Columbus in what no doubt will be the Big Ten game of the year and if things remain the same, will be the national game of the year. Michigan State head coach Mark Dantonio spent the early part of the week reminding his team that although the No. 2 ranking is nice publicity for his program, it really doesn't carry much clout.

"I do remind our players, we were 8-1 going into our 10th game in 2013 before we finally cracked the top 25," Dantonio said. "It's a hard climb up, it's a quick drop down."

The Buckeyes and Spartans' stock didn't diminish at all on Sept. 26 as both moved to 4-0 on the season.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* takes a look at football happenings around the Big Ten.

EAST DIVISION

INDIANA

After winning at Wake Forest, the Hoosiers are off to a 4-0 start for the first time in a quarter of a century. Granted IU hasn't defeated anyone noteworthy. After all, its first four victories have come against teams that are a combined 7-7.

The Hoosiers, who are off to their best start since 1990, held on to beat the Demon Deacons in a game that was anything but a thing of beauty. IU was penalized 11 times and watched Wake Forest score 14 points in the fourth quarter.

"It's nice that we've been mature enough, tough enough and good enough to win in all four," IU head coach Kevin Wilson said.

Hoosier running back Jordan Howard, the Big Ten's leading rusher who transferred from UAB, was the hero after rushing 33 times for 168 yards and a touchdown.

MARYLAND

The Terrapins are reeling after getting blown out at West Virginia. The 45-6 loss was the worst for Maryland since getting beat 52-7 by Wisconsin last season.

Little to nothing went right for Maryland, which trailed 38-0 at halftime. Quarterback Caleb Rowe made his second start of the season, but struggled, throwing four interceptions, including two in the end zone.

The Terrapin defense allowed WVU quarterback Styler Howard to complete 21-of-33 passes for 294 yards and four touchdowns. Plus, Mountaineer running back Wendell Smallwood ran for a career-high 147 yards and a score.

MICHIGAN

The Wolverines made quite the statement with their 31-0 blowout win over No. 22 BYU in the Big House. It was such a dominating victory that many were reminded of the powerhouse Michigan teams of the past.

EAST DIVISION

2015 Standings

| Team | Overall | Conference |
|----------------|---------|------------|
| Penn State | 3-1 | 1-0 |
| Ohio State | 4-0 | 0-0 |
| Michigan State | 4-0 | 0-0 |
| Indiana | 4-0 | 0-0 |
| Michigan | 3-1 | 0-0 |
| Maryland | 2-2 | 0-0 |
| Rutgers | 2-2 | 0-1 |

WEST DIVISION

| Team | Overall | Conference |
|--------------|---------|------------|
| Iowa | 4-0 | 0-0 |
| Northwestern | 4-0 | 0-0 |
| Illinois | 3-1 | 0-0 |
| Wisconsin | 3-1 | 0-0 |
| Minnesota | 3-1 | 0-0 |
| Nebraska | 2-2 | 0-0 |
| Purdue | 1-3 | 0-0 |

Sept. 26 Results

Bowling Green 35, Purdue 28

Rutgers 27, Kansas 14

Michigan 31, BYU 0

Michigan State 30, Central Michigan 10

Nebraska 36, Southern Mississippi 28

Indiana 31, Wake Forest 24

West Virginia 45, Maryland 6

Penn State 37, San Diego State 21

Minnesota 27, Ohio 24

Iowa 62, North Texas 16

Ohio State 38, Western Michigan 12

Illinois 27, Middle Tennessee 25

Wisconsin 28, Hawaii 0

Northwestern 24, Ball State 19

Oct. 3 Games

Army at Penn State, 11 a.m.

Purdue at Michigan State, 11 a.m.

Minnesota at Northwestern, 11 a.m.

Iowa at Wisconsin, 11 a.m.

Nebraska at Illinois, 2:30 p.m.

Ohio State at Indiana, 2:30 p.m.

Michigan at Maryland, 7 p.m.

Rutgers BYE

All times CT

WEST



BIG TEN

EAST



The Wolverines outgained the Cougars 448-105 and became the first team to shut BYU out since 2003. In addition, it was Michigan's first triumph over a ranked team since beating Notre Dame in 2013.

"It was a great defensive performance," Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh said.

The win over the Cougars was keyed by running back De'Veon Smith running over people and quarterback Jake Rudock playing turnover-free football.

Smith ran for 125 yards on 16 carries. One of those run was highlight-reel worthy as he punished would-be tacklers on his way to a 60-yard touchdown scamper. Rudock completed 14 of his 25 passes for 194 yards and a score, and he ran for a pair of touchdowns. Not all was perfect for Michigan as Smith left the game in the third quarter with an apparent ankle injury. After the game, he was seen in a walking boot so his status for the Big Ten opener at Maryland is up-in-the-air. After the game, Harbaugh said x-rays on Smith's ankle were negative. Smith believes he'll be ready for the Terrapins.

"I'm feeling good," said Michigan's leading rusher (69 carries for 331 yards and five touchdowns). "I've got the boot on as a precaution. I got a little banged up, but it's not a big deal."

MICHIGAN STATE

The Spartans weren't as sharp as you might expect a second-ranked team to be against an overmatched instate rival, but they did avoid Central Michigan's upset bid to remain unbeaten this season.

Michigan State's star defensive lineman Shilique Calhoun was the player of the game. He had 2 1/2 sacks and a blocked field goal against the Chippewas.

"He sort of took the game over a little bit," said Dantonio about Calhoun.

Gerald Holmes's two fourth-quarter touchdowns were big for the Spartans, who led just 17-10 entering the final frame. Michigan State has scored at least 30 points in a school-record 12 straight games.

The win was pretty costly, too, for the Spartans. Standout offensive tackle Jack Conklin suffered an apparent knee injury.

Remember, Michigan State has already lost linebacker Ed Davis and cornerback Vacant Copeland to season-ending injuries.

OHIO STATE

The Buckeyes went with Cradle Jones at quarterback and he responded by throwing a couple touchdown passes and leading his team to a 26-point win over visiting Western Michigan.

Jones, who was benched against Northern Illinois after a sub-par performance, was 19-of-33 passing for 288 yards. He was only 6-of-14 though in the second half and threw an interception.

J.T. Barrett did come in for the final 6:34 and threw a pick on his first drive.

Ohio State has now won 17 straight games.

PENN STATE

The Nittany Lions have won three in a row after losing their season opener.

Penn State beat visiting San Diego State thanks to quarterback Christian Hackenberg's three touchdown passes.

Hackenberg completed 21-of-35 passes for 296 yards. Also helping the host's cause was defensive lineman Austin Johnson recovering a fumble and returning it 71 yards for a score. Penn State scored 21 points off of Aztec turnovers.

The Lions also got three field goals from Joey Julius and they scored on three of their first four possessions.

RUTGERS

In what has already been a tumultuous season, the Scarlet Knights have something positive to think about during their bye week as they beat Kansas (the Jayhawks' 34th straight away from Lawrence). Quarterback Chris Laviano threw a pair of touchdowns and Josh Hicks ran for a 113 yards and two scores to help their team snap a two-game losing streak.

The win was the first for Rutgers running backs coach Norries Wilson, who is running the team during head coach Kyle Flood's three-game suspension.

"It was a must win because I didn't want to go into a bye week with a

three-game losing streak and everybody hanging their head," said Wilson, whose defense allowed Kansas just 64 yards rushing on 29 tries.

The game was especially vital when you look at what lies ahead for Rutgers. Dates against Michigan State, Ohio State and Wisconsin are in store in October.

WEST DIVISION

ILLINOIS

The Illini have won three of their first four games, the latest being a two-point victory over Middle Tennessee in Champaign. Illinois' Taylor Zalewski hit a 51-yard field goal with 2:09 remaining in the fourth quarter, which proved to be the game winner. The Blue Raiders' Cody Clark missed a 43-yard field goal wide left with eight seconds to play.

"I've never seen an ugly win," Illinois interim head coach Bill Cubit said. "It's either a win or a loss."

That said, the game raised some serious questions for the Illini, who will have to prove they're as good as their record might indicate.

IOWA

Iowa looks like a serious contender for the Big Ten's West Division title after finishing the nonconference season 4-0.

The Hawkeyes crushed North Texas as running back Jordan Canzeri tied a school record with four touchdowns.

Iowa quarterback C.J. Beathard was good, too. He completed his first 15 passes and threw for 278 yards.

The Hawkeyes' 62-16 win marked the first time they had topped 60 points since 2002. Iowa also got contributions from Tevaun Smith (115 yards receiving) and Desmond King (180 yards on punt and kick returns).

"We've got a lot of guys making positive contributions," said Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz, whose team enters Big Ten play unblemished for the first time since 2009. "For us to be a good football team, that's typically how it has to go."

MINNESOTA

Gopher quarterback Mitch Leidner has

WEST



BIG TEN

EAST



drawn his share of criticism this season, but he responded with one of the best games in his career to help his team nip visiting Ohio and move to 3-1 on the season. He threw for a career-high 264 yards, while freshman Shannon Brooks rushed for a pair of scores, including a three-yarded with 30 seconds left that proved to be the game winner.

"It feels good," said Leidner, who completed 22-of-32 passes. "I talked about it earlier in the week, never losing confidence in myself. I've been a competitive kid my entire life and at no point was I going to back down from any type of competition."

Down 24-20 with less than 2:30 left to play, Leidner engineered a 78-yard game-winning touchdown drive. He completed 4-of-6 passes on the drive and got lucky when one of his passes was dropped by an Ohio defensive back.

Cause for concern going forward is Minnesota lost star defensive back Brien Boddy-Calhoun and three other members of the second to injury and allowed three pass plays of at least 30 yards for the first time since 2013.

NORTHWESTERN

The 17th-ranked Wildcats are unbeaten at 4-0 heading into Big Ten play after rallying at home to beat pesky Ball State.

"It was a hard-fought win and we'll take it," Northwestern head coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "There is a lot of room for improvement."

The Wildcats, who really got banged up throughout the contest and may have some issues with injuries going forward, trailed 10-7 at halftime, mainly due to turning the ball over three times, but used a 17-point third quarter to avoid the upset. Quarterback Clayton Thorson threw for 256 yards and three touchdowns, completing 18-of-31 passes, and running back Justin Jackson ran for 184 yards on 33 carries.

PURDUE

The Boilermakers might have played their best game of the season against vis-



Tommy Armstrong Jr. and teammates arrive before the Southern Miss game last week.

iting Bowling Green, but penalties and a couple of short field goal misses doomed Purdue, who fell to 1-3 on the season.

The loss was not due to the effort of redshirt freshman quarterback David Blough. He made his first career start after head coach Darrell Hazell opted to bench Austin Appleby after he struggled in the first three games. Blough threw for 335 yards and two touchdowns, completing 28-of-38 passes. He also ran for a score and had one interception, which came on Purdue's final possession of the game.

Two personal foul penalties on the Purdue defense came on Bowling Green's game-winning late fourth-quarter drive.

Plus, kicker Paul Griggs missed a 32-yard field goal with less than three minutes left in the game with the score tied. He also missed a 19-yard late in the opening half.

"We played hard, but still are not taking that next step to finish the game,"

Hazell said.

WISCONSIN

Not only have the Badgers won three straight games, but they haven't allowed a touchdown since the fourth quarter of the season-opening loss to Alabama. Wisconsin shut out Hawaii Sept. 26 in Madison, and that Badger defense continued to be a big part of the story. The Rainbow Warriors were held to just 15 yards rushing and linebacker Joe Schubert had a pair of sacks. Speaking of running, Taiwan Deal ran for 147 yards and two scores. Deal's production was quite a boost for a Wisconsin team without injured starting tailback Corey Clement, who is out for at least a month needing hernia surgery.

Wisconsin's winning streak has come against Miami (Ohio), Troy and Hawaii so next week's home game against Iowa will certainly be the toughest test the Badgers have faced since their opener.



A Stroll Down Rasmussen Road With **CHARLIE McBRIDE**

Football Coach 1977-1999

Column by Butch Rasmussen • Photo from Huskers Illustrated Archives

To many Cornhusker football fans he was considered Husker royalty. Keeper of the Blackshirts.

Most often they just called him coach. He was Charlie McBride, 23 years an assistant coach at Nebraska, the last 18 as the godfather of the Husker defenses as defensive coordinator.

He got his start in football at Morgan Park High School in Chicago where he was a four-sport athlete in football, baseball, basketball and track.

He had an offer to sign as a pitcher with the Chicago White Sox rookie league but was captain of the football team and had earned recognition as all-city and all-area as well as honorable mention all-state and was invited to meet with a football coach from Colorado at a local Chicago hotel where he agreed to play football for Colorado.

So it was off to Colorado in January of 1958 where he became an All-Big 8 punter and played both ways at offensive and defensive end, finishing his eligibility in 1962.

He did some student teaching at Boulder High School where he was on the football coaching staff. The quarterback of that high school team was Hale Irwin, who was later to become a professional golfing great, and Dick Anderson, who later became an All-Pro defensive back for the Miami Dolphins.

McBride moved on to a high school coaching stop at Fenger High School in Chicago where he was approached by coaches from the University of Colorado to hire on as a graduate assistant for head football coach Eddie Crowder. Those were tough days with the purse strings as McBride recalls.

"My wife Debbie and I had two sons and a third one on the way. My wage was \$78 a month and we spent \$45 of that on rent living in an old quonset hut, which was about 400 square feet," he recalls. "I was able to teach some classes. I remember teaching archery and handball at \$3.00 per class - just to get by."

"My brother was a hasher at the fraternity house and he'd bring us some peanut butter and crackers and we lived near a pizza restaurant and if they had leftover pizza when they closed they'd call us to pick up some pizza" McBride said. "Good food!"

Over the years McBride has moved up from one coaching job to another. Crowder helped him step up from his life in that quonset

hut at Colorado to a \$7,000 a year job as the offensive line coach for Frank Kush at Arizona State. Then there was a six-year step up at Wisconsin where he was making \$18,600 annually before that fateful day at the coach's convention in Miami, Florida in January 1977.

The phone rang in McBride's hotel room and the caller identified himself as Tom Osborne.

"No, really, who is this," McBride inquired. "This is Tom Osborne," came the reply. "Are you kidding?" McBride asked? "I'm down in room 215 and I'd like to talk with you." Osborne replied. Two weeks later McBride was a Husker football coach, a position he would hold for the next 23 years.

"I had opportunities to move on but money wasn't everything," McBride said. "My main thing was to keep my three boys in the same high school and to be loyal to Coach Osborne. Tom Landry, the late Dallas Cowboys head coach tried to hire me and not many people told Tom Landry no."

McBride tells the story of this diminutive running back out of Wichita, Kansas who wanted to come to Nebraska in the worst way and talked to McBride who was recruiting the area about a scholarship. McBride called head coach Osborne and Osborne said he had already made a commitment to one undersized running back in Johnny Rodger's son

Terry and they couldn't commit to two small running backs so McBride was told to say no to BARRY SANDERS. As in future HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER BARRY SANDERS.

Soon after Mike Riley was hired as the new Husker head coach he met McBride at an annual alumni function in Phoenix, Arizona. Riley asked McBride to come back to Lincoln to meet with the new Husker football staff.

He wanted McBride to enlighten his new staff on all things Husker. He wanted to know about the tradition, about the fans, about the program in depth. He wanted to immerse his staff in the Husker tradition.

Shortly before the spring game former coaches Milt Tenopir, George Darlington and McBride met with Riley and his staff to answer questions on various topics and to set up a plan to revive the old blackshirt tradition.

McBride, 75, who lives in southern Michigan and spends the winter months in the Phoenix area with family, says he's really excited about Riley and his staff. "I'm very impressed," he said. "They're good teachers. Things are going to be just fine in Lincoln."





Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photo courtesy of NU Media Relations.

Blackshirts Hold Off Tigers

Husker defense forces 10 Auburn fumbles



Nebraska 17, Auburn 3

Oct. 3, 1981 in Lincoln, Nebraska

The Nebraska Cornhuskers began the 1981 season ranked seventh in the country, but after losses in two of their first three games to Iowa (10-7) and Penn State (30-24), the Big Red was unranked and scrambling to save the season after its worst start since 1961. The Auburn Tigers came to town, also unranked with two early losses.

The game looked like another potential loss for NU on a rainy afternoon in Lincoln, as the Huskers could not muster anything on the scoreboard and trailed 3-0 at halftime after the Tigers connected on a first-quarter 52-yard field goal by Al Del Greco.

Even though the offense was stagnant, the defense proved stout as they forced 10 fumbles, recovering five. The play of the Blackshirts kept Nebraska in the game as Auburn did not score again after that early field goal.

The offense, which was turned away early inside the Auburn 10-yard line, needed a spark and sophomore quarterback Turner Gill provided it.

NU head coach Tom Osborne inserted Gill to take over for starting quarterback Mark Mauer. Gill who

specialized in the option offense, took advantage of the Tiger fumbles and led Nebraska on scoring drives on its first two possessions of the second half, notching points on a 39-yard field goal by Kevin Seibel and a three-yard touchdown run by I-back Roger Craig.

With a 10-3 lead, NU's defense held the Tigers at bay as it had all game long, giving up only 150 yards of total offense (including just 55 on the ground) and created seven turnovers (two interceptions and five fumbles) on the day. The offense finally put the game away when Gill ran for an eight-yard touchdown late in the fourth quarter to complete the 17-3 win. Gill only rushed for 20 yards and passed for 9, but managed the offense skillfully in his first chance at meaningful playing time. Nebraska, which had four turnovers of its own (two fumbles and two interceptions), rolled up 257 yards rushing on 64 carries behind Craig, Mike Rozier and fullback Phil Bates. NU also mixed in 50 yards of passing to complement its ground game.

The victory evened the Huskers' record at 2-2 as they headed into Big 8 Conference play against the Colorado Buffaloes.



Jimmy Williams pressures the Auburn quarterback during a game.



a play in the 1981 contest won by Nebraska, 17-3.



REDSHIRT READY

Boender bursts onto the scene after sitting out her first year

Story by Bob Hamar • Photos by Joe Mixan and Mitch Otto

Nebraska coach John Cook never had any doubt that Olivia Boender could play at Nebraska.

"I went and watched her in club, then I watched her play basketball," Cook said. "She's an athlete. She's what you call a baller."

Boender burst on the scene in a big match against then-No. 11 Oregon at the VERT Challenge in Austin, Texas early in September. The Huskers struggled early and faced a 2-0 deficit to the Ducks in that match.

During that second set she got the word from Cook. "He just said, 'Boender, let's go,' so I just went," she

said. "You're just always ready."

Boender, a redshirt freshman from Waverly, entered the match in the second set and went on to 15 kills to help the Huskers come back for a 3-2 win over the Ducks.

Cook said Boender had a great week of practice leading up to the Oregon match.

"I wanted to play her (that) week if I had the opportunity," he said. "(That) week she showed she can hang. That was the first week she could really do it. I got her in, and that gave her a lot of confidence."



Boender credited her teammates for the win.

"The girls on the court just made sure everything was under control, we stayed calm and we played as a team," Boender said. "We had energy. We always play better when we have a lot of energy. It makes our play a lot better. When we don't have energy, we struggle. My teammates had a lot of energy and they were helping me because I was coming in fresh."

Boender followed that performance with 10 kills against South Florida during the Ameritas Classic. The 6-foot-2 outside hitter hasn't played much since then because Cook has a lot of options at that position.

But Boender has shown that after a redshirt season, she can be ready when called upon.

An injury helped make the decision to redshirt easy, but Cook said she needed that year to mature.

"Like a lot of freshmen, she's from small-town Waverly," Cook said. "She has to learn to work hard, she has to grow up a little bit. She's not the big fish in the small town any more. There's always a transition with that."

Boender said she understands how important that redshirt season was.

"Just getting over the injury was tough at first, but redshirting helped me a lot because I got a feeling of what it was going to be like with school and sports, just managing all that," Boender said. "I think it was really helpful for me because I could go to practice

| 2015 Schedule | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------|
| Nebraska Invite at Devaney Center | | |
| Aug. 28 | Tulsa | W, 3-0 (1-0) |
| Aug. 29 | Grand Canyon | W, 3-0 (2-0) |
| Aug. 29 | Pittsburgh | W, 3-1 (3-0) |
| Vertical Challenge at Austin, Texas | | |
| Sept. 4 | Texas | L, 3-2 (3-1) |
| Sept. 5 | Oregon | W, 3-2 (4-1) |
| Ameritas Challenge at Devaney Center | | |
| Sept. 11 | UC Davis | W, 3-0 (5-1) |
| Sept. 12 | USF | W, 3-0 (6-1) |
| Sept. 12 | Georgia Tech | W, 3-0 (7-1) |
| Sept. 15 | at Creighton | W, 3-0 (8-1) |
| Sept. 19 | at Iowa State | W, 3-1 (9-1) |
| Sept. 23 | at Iowa | W, 3-0 (10-1) |
| Sept. 26 | Iowa | W, 3-0 (11-1) |
| Oct. 2 | at Penn State | 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 3 | at Ohio State | 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 7 | Mich. State | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 10 | Michigan | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 16 | at Northwestern | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 17 | at Illinois | 7:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 23 | Minnesota | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 24 | Wisconsin | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 30 | Rutgers | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 31 | Maryland | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 4 | at Purdue | 6 p.m. |
| Nov. 7 | at Indiana | 6 p.m. |
| Nov. 11 | at Mich. State | 6 p.m. |
| Nov. 14 | at Maryland | 6 p.m. |
| Nov. 18 | Indiana | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 21 | at Michigan | 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 25 | Illinois | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 28 | Penn State | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 4-5 | NCAA 1st, 2nd Rds | TBD |
| Dec. 11-12 | NCAA Regionals | - TBD |
| Dec. 17 | NCAA Semis | at Omaha |
| Dec. 19 | NCAA Final | at Omaha |

with the mindset, 'I'm going to get better today.'

"It was nice to just adjust to college."

Boender pretty much always knew Nebraska was the place for her. There wasn't much of a recruiting process for Boender. Her family moved to Waverly when she was in first grade. It was about that time that she went to her first Husker volleyball game.

"Just seeing my first Husker game was crazy," Boender said. "I just knew that was where I wanted to go."

Boender watched players like All-Americans Jordan Larson and Hannah Werth and wanted to follow in their footsteps. Now she's playing volleyball for the Huskers just like they did, although she sometimes gets mistaken for a basketball player, but she still appreciates all the fan support.

"You go to the store and people will sometimes say, 'Hey, what a good game last night. Can I have a picture with you?'" Boender said. "I just think that's so cool that people know who you are here and how little girls look up to us and how we're role models to them."

"I remember when I was a little kid. I always looked up to them."

For now, Boender will bide her time on the Husker bench and play when called upon. Eventually she expects to be on the floor and play all the way around the rotation.

"I do," she said. "That's what coach told me. He wants me to be a six-rotation player."

NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photo by Mitch Otto

COOK MISSES ISU MATCH

John Cook missed the Sept. 19 match at Iowa State because he had traveled back to California because of a family matter. The Huskers got along pretty well without him and came home with a 3-1 victory over the Cyclones. Assistant coach Dani Busboom Kelly took over as interim head coach in Cook's absence with Chris Tamas and Lindsey Peterson helping out on the bench.

Cook wasn't worried at all.

"I can honestly say I did not have one ounce of anxiety about the job our team would do and the job our staff would do," Cook said. "After Thursday's practice I felt really good that we were well prepared so I didn't have one worry at all."

Cook watched the video of the match the next day and said he thought the Husker were a little tight. That's something he didn't anticipate.

"It's out of our routine and they really wanted to play well," Cook said. "Other than that I felt great. In fact I didn't watch it, I didn't listen to it, I didn't check the scores until it was over. My focus was somewhere else."

Cook said the players never said a word about him being gone, but there was one surprise.

"I will say this: The support from Husker Nation blew my mind," he said. "I didn't know that many people had my cell phone number. That's why we're Nebraska."

COOK HAPPY WITH TEAM

Cook was generally pleased with his team's performance while going 9-1 in non-conference play. He said the only areas of concern might be consistency with the middle attack and developing the back row defense.

Cook said he likes what the Huskers have gotten from Kenzie Maloney, a freshman defensive specialist from Louisville, Kentucky.

"I want her to be a little more consistent," Cook said. "We think she can be



really good. She's done a great job passing. That's the big thing. You can always get another great passer in there."

WEDNESDAY MATCHES POSITIVE

The Big 12 Conference found out years ago that Wednesday was a good night for college volleyball. Now the Big Ten knows it too.

"Big Ten will tell you Wednesday night ratings are off the charts for volleyball," Cook said. "That's the highest night. We figured that out in the Big 12. When I first came into the league I told them Wednesday nights are great. They go, 'No, no, no. Friday-Saturday is where it's at.'"

The Huskers will play six Wednesday night Big Ten matches this season while they will play Friday-Saturday matches four times.

"Friday is where they put the shows they're going to dump," Cook said. "Now they love Wednesday nights and that's one problem going Friday-Saturday because you take away Wednesday TV."

Cook said it's good to have some Friday-Saturday matches because that's the format used in the NCAA regionals, which is something Cook would like to see changed. There is always a day be-

tween the national semifinals and the championship match, but the regionals are Friday-Saturday.

"We should have a day off in the regional in the NCAA Tournament," Cook said. "It's a disadvantage for some teams because if you have to play the early match in a regional, it's tough to turn around and play the next match early."

BIG TEN BALANCE

The Big Ten is certainly different than the Big 12 was when the Huskers were in that conference. Cook said most of the Big 12 teams didn't think they could beat Nebraska. In the Big Ten, every team thinks it can win every night.

"That's what I keep saying," Cook said. "Everybody in the Big Ten thinks they can win. When we were in the Big 12, not everybody thought they could win every night. Those teams compete. They believe and I think that's why you see so many close matches and so many upsets. It's wild."

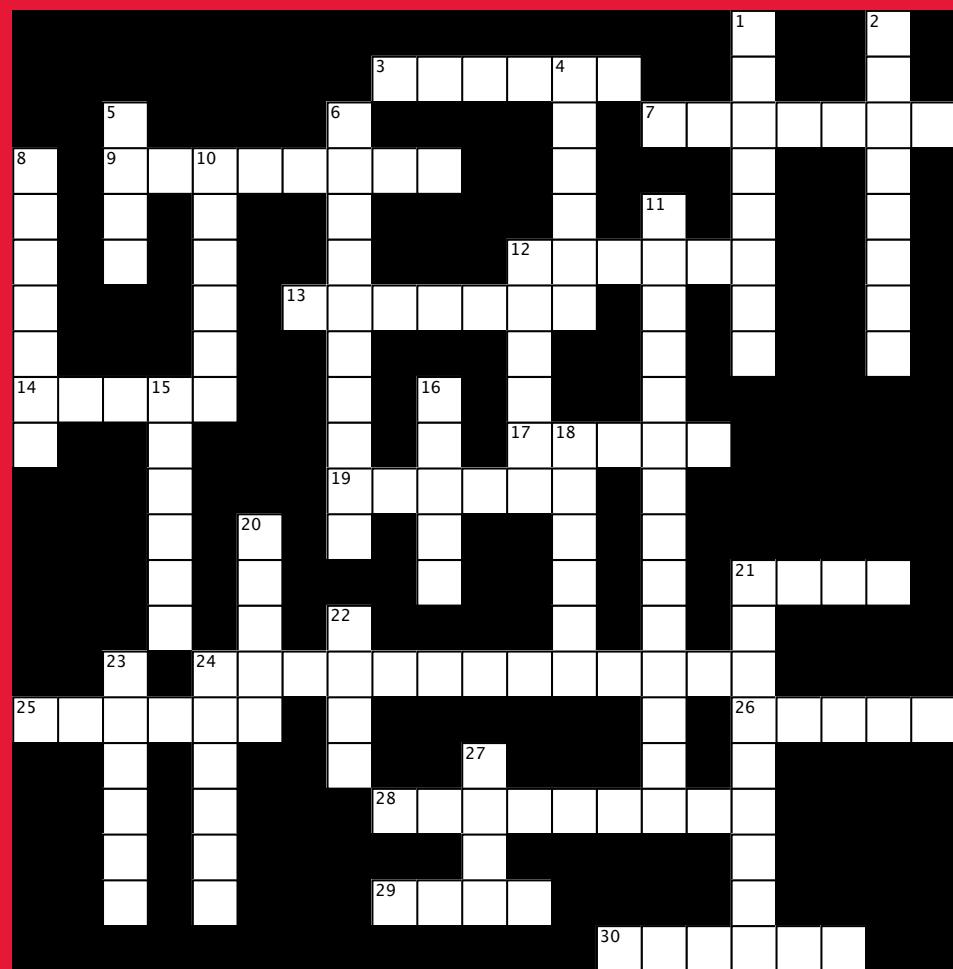
Cook said there are no easy nights in Big Ten play.

"Those are two big things, and then going one match at a time," he said. "You can't start looking ahead. I don't care who you play in the Big Ten."

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 3. Tight end whose father played for Huskers
- 7. Wears No. 70 (offense)
- 9. Ex-Husker running back now with Cincinnati Bengals
- 12. 1983 Maxwell Award winner
- 13. Illinois head coach fired in August
- 14. Leading rusher vs. Miami
- 17. Offensive lineman whose father played for Huskers
- 19. True freshman who scored first touchdown vs. Miami
- 21. NU's division in Big Ten Conference
- 24. Illinois' bowl game after 2014 season
- 25. Oct. 31 opponent
- 26. Illinois interim head coach
- 28. Illinois campus location
- 29. No. of Tommy Armstrong touchdown passes vs. Miami
- 30. Illinois 3-time All-American



Down

- 1. Linebacker whose father played for Huskers
- 2. Wears No. 92 (defense)
- 4. 2017 non-conference opponent
- 5. Long-snapper
- 6. Leading receiver vs. Miami
- 8. 2016 non-conference opponent
- 10. Junior receiver who scored first career touchdown vs. Miami
- 11. Illinois nickname
- 12. 2000 Rimington Award winner
- 15. Illinois All-America linebacker who starred for Chicago Bears
- 16. Leading tackler vs. Miami
- 18. Ex-Husker receiver now with New York Jets
- 20. No. of Tommy Armstrong interceptions vs. Miami
- 21. Oct. 10 opponent
- 22. Linebackers coach
- 23. Illinois school color
- 24. Defensive line coach
- 27. Intercepted pass vs. Miami

OCTOBER 3 PUZZLE



THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

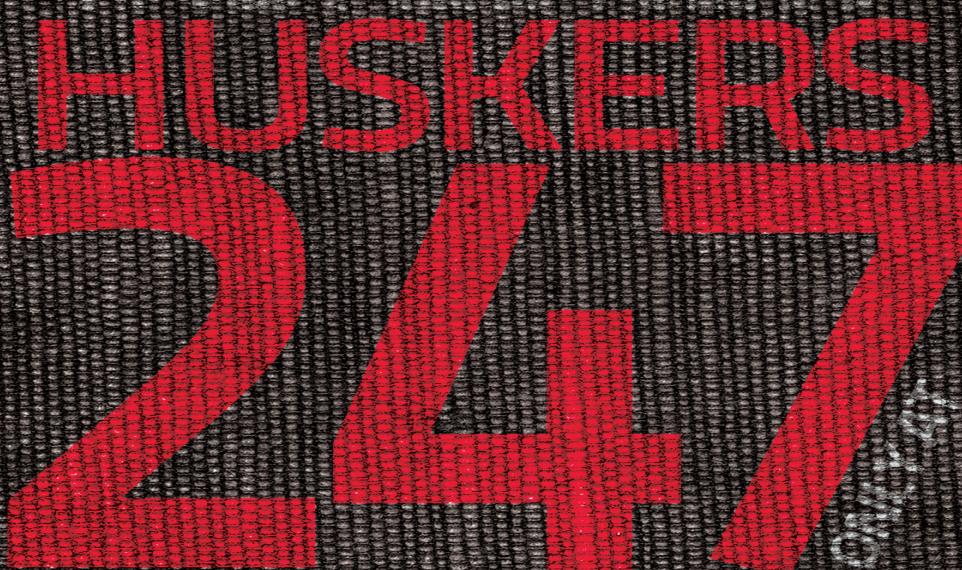
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